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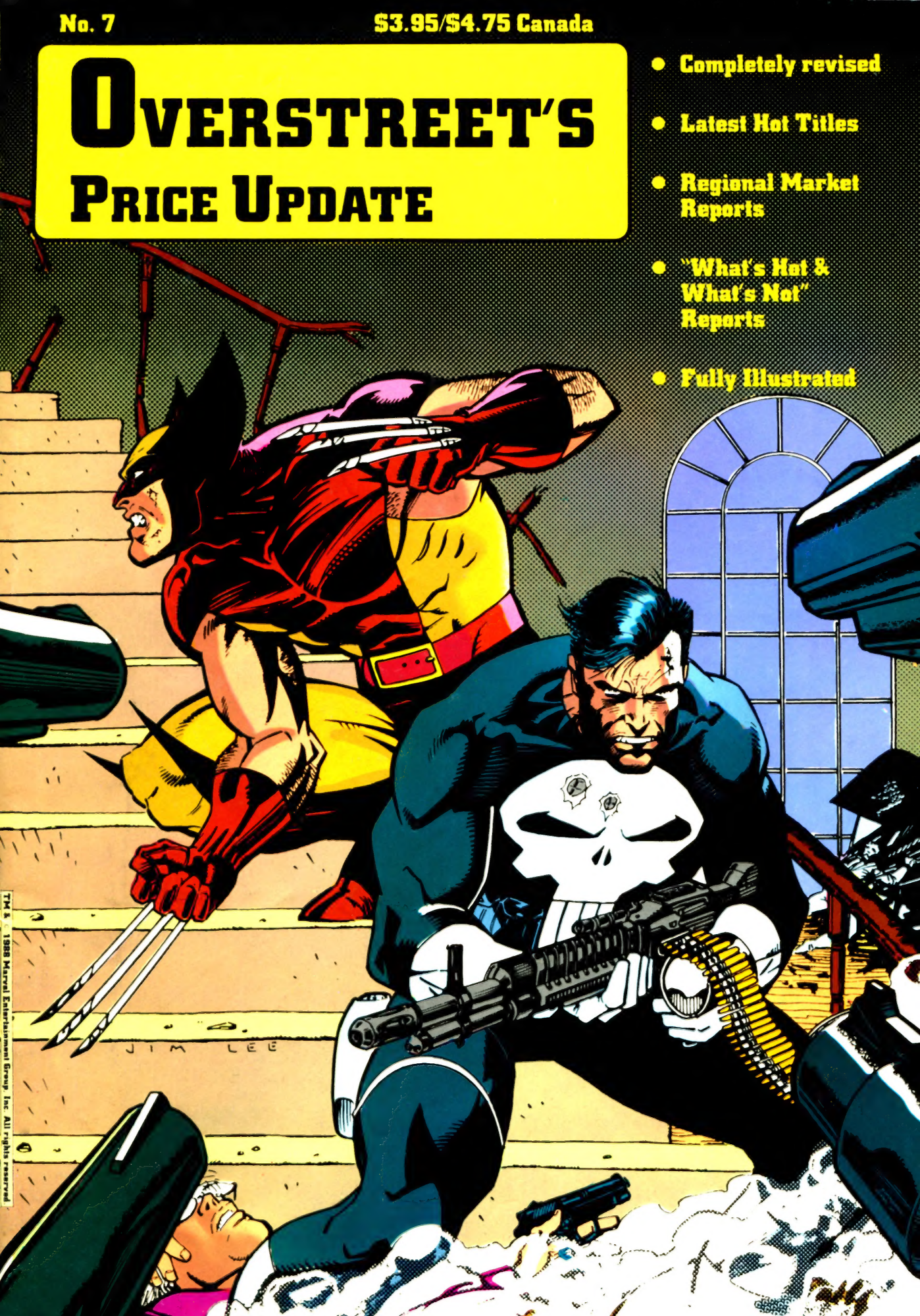

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THE OVERSTREET UPDATE

GENERAL INFORMATION

About Pricing - The prices shown in this guide represent an honest and responsible evaluation of current market values. The prices represent an average of dealer retail prices compiled from data supplied by our Board Of Special Advisors. Prices often vary widely from region to region because supply and demand varies. Therefore, each seller should determine prices based in part by using this guide, and also by understanding his/her regional supply and demand factors.

When buying collections, dealers will normally pay 1/4 to 3/4 of this Guide value based on inventory needs and local market conditions.

GRADING

Prices listed in this Guide are for comic books in mint condition. The value of a comic in a lower grade can be determined by multiplying the price shown by the appropriate percentage as shown below:

Near Mint =	90%- 100% of mint price
Very Fine =	70 - 80% of mint price
Fine =	40 - 50% of mint price
Very Good =	20 - 30% of mint price
Good =	10 - 15% of mint price

OVERSTREET GRADING GUIDELINES

Please note: Age is not a factor when grading comic books. A 30 year old comic book should be graded with the same criteria as a 1 year old comic book.

Mint- Like new, perfect in every way.

Near Mint - Almost flawless, only the slightest, most unobtrusive signs of wear, noticeable only upon very close inspection. Page color should be creamy to white.

Very Fine - Excellent, superb condition with insignificant wear and possibly a very minor, light crease. No browning. Very nearly mint.

Fine - Tight, sharp copy with significant wear, but still flat, clean and shiny. Any chips, tears or flakes should be carefully described. No writing except perhaps a light arrival date on the covers. Only a minor, light crease is allowed. No brown pages. Pleasing in appearance without much general wear.

Very Good- Obviously a used copy with most original printing lustre and gloss gone. Some discoloration is permitted, but no soiling. Some signs of wear and minor markings, but none that deface the cover. No chunks missing, no tape or heavy writing. Any other minor defects such as chipping or flaking should be described.

Good- A worn and heavily read copy with no pages missing. Soiling, creases, minor tears or splits, color flaking, etc. is permissable. A sound and complete copy that is very worn.

SYMBOLS USED

The following symbols will be used to designate various market activity:

+ The issue or issues have gone up in value since last Bulletin.

- The issue or issues have gone down in value since last Bulletin.

H (HOT) Indicates a title or issue that is currently in high demand.

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Keith Contarino
Marietta, Georgia

First - Let me thank Jon for the opportunity to get on my soapbox for a few pages before the latest Market Report.

Many of you may not have been aware of the price discrepancies between the Price Guide and Bulletin/Updates concerning comics in less than NM grade. The reason is quite simple, the Bulletins are based on a percentage of Mint and the Price Guide is based on multiples of Good. This plays havoc with all grades below NM on many books. Lets look at Daredevil #1 in Fine. The 1988 Guide values this book at $107.00. The latest Bulletin bases the value at 50% Mint which = $155.00. Yet both publications have the Mint price at $300.00. The Bulletin would have us believe the book is worth 50% more than the Price Guide, yet both publications come basically from the same source. The Bulletins and Updates were started to keep up with fluctuating market trends that a yearly Guide could not. They are not intended to increase the value of lower graded books. The Daredevil #1 is not an isolated instance. The same thing happens when we look at F.F. #1 in Good. The Update has the book valued 50% higher than the Price Guide. Which price is right and who makes that decision? From a philosophical view, one can ask if a Mint D.D. #1 or F.F. #1 is worth 3X a Fine copy. It depends on how strictly one grades Fine. Some dealers have come to regard Fine (and even VF!!!) as a low grade. If that is true then a NM copy is worth at least 3X a Fine. Unfortunately, those people that view F-VF as low grade are really over-grading Vg-F copies. If one is strict in grading, Fine should denote a very desirable, collectible book worth somewhere around 50% of NM for books before 1968. I say NM as I am becoming more and more convinced that truly Mint books before 1968 are almost non-existent and their value may indeed be much, much higher than mint Guide. As an investor, Mint or NM copies of books such as FF 1-9, AF 15, JLA 1, B&B 28, Showcase 34, Spiderman 1-5, Atom 1, Astonish 27, Suspense 39, JIM 83 etc. at Mint or slightly above mint prices are a bargain. Even NM books at Mint prices are a steal. I also feel 150-300% Guide is reasonable to ask for books (like Showcase 34 or FF 2) that are almost never seen in true NM. These comics are endangered species, yet every week CBG is chock full of ads with NM Golden and Silver Age books. Unfortunately, most of these books are way over-graded. Many retailers seem to believe if a comic is closer to Mint than to Good, it must be NM. During the past 6 months I have been buying extensively through the mail. I have returned over 90% of all books ordered due to gross over-grading. Of the 10% or so I have kept, many of them were over-graded but still a bargain so I kept them (none were expensive). Of the over 300 comics sent to me I received 2 actual NM Conan #1's, a true VF Strange Tales #102, a NM Hulk #6 and a NM FF #4 (proving there are some bona fide NM Silver Age Books out there). Grading problems are not limited to high grade. I routinely receive Vg books covered with tape and water stained, Fine books that are so brittle they fall apart in your hands, etc. I had some GA Batman sent to me recently graded VF and NM. One of the books had spine damage you could see through its Mylar bag from 10 feet across the room. It was a nice book but more like F-VF at best. Now I know the person who sent that book would never have sent a Batman #300 or #400 looking like that and called it NM. I doubt if he would have sent a Conan #1 for that matter, but since this Batman #99 was 35 years old I am sure he felt justified in grading it differently than a two year old book.

I've spoken with hundreds of collectors over the last few months and they are all concerned with the lack of standardization of pricing and grading. The problem is compounded by the price differences between the Guides and Bulletins and the unfortunate myth that there are separate grading standards for older books. I would like to point out that there is no correlation between over-grading and overpricing. Over-grading is inherently dishonest and bad for our hobby. If, however, someone owns a nice Batman #99 in solid F-VF and feels it is worth NM or Mint Guide due to the scarcity of old books in this grade, that's fine. Pricing a book above Guide because of scarcity is the right way to do business - not claiming that the book is a higher grade than it really is.

So, what to do? I think we need to do three things; First) In every Bulletin, Update, and Price Guide, there should be in bold black letters on the page describing grading a statement to the effect that the age of the book should have nothing to do with the grade, Second), The Updates and Bulletins should use ranges for percentages of Mint for Good to NM. I would suggest G=10-15%, Vg 20-30%, Fine 40-55%, VF 75-85%, NM 90-100%, and a statement that most recent books are valueless if below VF, Third) Jon and Bob should set up a centralized grading bureau, where books could be sent, graded, sealed in Mylar with a grading certificate, and mailed back to the owner, for a reasonable fee. I would envision a panel of 3 to 5 graders each of whom would assign a value of 1 (poor) to 10 (perfect, Pristine Mint). The owner could then decide how much the book is worth, although it would be possible to set up an appraisal service also. Send any additional ideas to Jon.

Now, on to my MARKET REPORT FOR THE SOUTHEAST

In response to Dennis Behrend's' challenge to turn up a Star Wars #1 35 cent copy- I am the person who recently sold a Vg copy for $75. This is only the second copy I have found. It is in my opinion, the most under-priced book around today and I will gladly pay 110% Guide for any copy in any condition.

RECENT BACK ISSUES - Based on a survey of stores in Atlanta, Nick Fury 1-3, Wolverine 1-4, Groo (both) 1-5, Nam 1-5 (If priced correctly), Punisher (all), Grendel (Comico) 1 & 2 are all doing well. Spiderman 129 and 238 continue to sell briskly at 60-75 and 8-12 dollars respectively. Conan and back issue of Savage Sword (1-15) seem to be picking up some. G.I. Joe is DEAD!!!!. Longshot 1-6 still sells but not as briskly. Hulk 181 is impossible to keep in stock and the price on this book is getting ridiculous. If MacFarlane stays on Spiderman, look for the first five issues to become very valuable. Daredevil 158 is being asked for much more frequently than six months ago.

GOLDEN AGE - We recently sold some very high grade mid-numbers Whiz and Captain Marvel at 150% Guide. All our Fawcetts in lesser condition have sold at or slightly below Guide. We have had no Timelys. Our DC titles especially Batman are still selling well when graded properly.

SILVER AGE - All High Grade Marvels have taken off!!! We turned down $185 for a NM Hulk #6 and sold a FF #4 for $475 in NM! We have had no key issues but I would expect true NM copies to bring at least 125% Guide. Silver Age DC's are still very popular and hard to come by even when offering 150% Guide. Collectors are becoming aware that NM copies are almost non-existent and are not parting with copies as readily as in previous years. On the flip side, collectors are also realizing that to obtain high grade Silver Age books they are going to have to pay more.

In our most recent mail order ad we sold many mid-grade books like FF 5, 12, Spiderman 5, and DD 1, in Vg-F+ at slightly below Guide and they went fast. NM copies of Spiderman in the 20's and 30's brought 125% Mint 1988 Guide.

B&B 57 has finally started to go up in value. I wish I had 100 copies. Other inexpensive books to look at for investment are Cap. Marvel 1-10, Cap. America 100, Iron Man & Submariner #1, Submariner 1-10, T.O.S. 52, 53, 57, TTA 44, Strange Tales 101-109, Atom 1-10, Aquaman 1-10, Hawkman 1-10, Showcase 34-36, Adventure 256, 260. Look for Conan 1, 3 and possibly the other Barry Smith issues to make a comeback along with Silver Surfer. Detective 225 is very hard to find and #233 is a real sleeper at this time.

People are also asking for E.C.'s and Barks' Ducks. This is good news even though we don't have any for sale.

INDEPENDENTS - We sold a set of Love & Rockets 1-3 at 33% below Guide and a TMNT 1-3 similarly priced. Flaming Carrot still maintains sales because early issues will never be reprinted. Cerebus has died for us other than 1-4 and they are hard to sell due to high cost. A warehouse sale of issues 5 and up has taken place over the last 6 months in New Jersey and that has driven supply up and prices down. We no longer buy Cerebus unless they are dirt cheap. We have had two people offer us up to 100 copies of first printing TMNT #1. I would warn people that some unscrupulous persons have erased the third

from third printing copies and have sold them as first printings. I also question how many copies of the first printing really exist. There sure seems to be a lot of them available.

DOCUMENTED SALES

Atom #1, Vg $35; Spiderman #5, F $45; Spiderman #238, M $10 (2 copies); T.O.S. #52, VF+ $25; FF #4, NM $475; Batman #1, Poor $450; More Fun #101, Fair $115; Whiz #80, NM $60; Whiz #55, NM $80; Whiz #37, VF+ $120; Cap. Marvel #37, NM $125; Cap. Marvel #52, VF-NM $60; Fight #46, NM $90; Daredevil #1, Fn $135.

Bob Nastasi
Amazing Comics
12 Gillette Ave.
Sayville, NY 11782

Market Report

As long as I've been involved in this hobby (and that's more years than I care to remember) it never ceases to amaze me! Market changes can (and do) happen over as short a time span as one month. What were slow movers six months ago are now today's hot sellers. Most of this activity is from recent Marvel titles. Books like Iron Man, Daredevil, Hulk, and Captain America have all become hot new sellers. Changes in storylines and the characters themselves have brought about the demand for recent issues of these once slow movers. Good for Marvel, because they needed a shot in the arm. Amazing Spider-Man is also extremely hot due to the Todd McFarlane issues. And the Mutant books (of course) always sell well. Steady back issue sales include the other two Spider titles (Web and Spec.), West Coast, Punisher, Silver Surfer and Avengers. G.I. Joe sales have picked up, but the back issue market seems to be dead except for the more recent issues. Transformers is dead, as are the New Universe titles. Alf is still a great seller but has showed signs of slowing up. Wolverine, Punisher War Journal and Excalibur are all burning up the roadways for Marvel. Tardiness has hurt the Shadowline Books from Epic. Semper-Fi sold well, but at .75, it should be the hottest book going. I wonder how it would if sold in a different format? Shield is very hot. It is a good book and was vastly under-ordered by retailers, making it scarce. Thor is a boarderline seller, but issue #400 will cause some excitement in this title. However; "The Worlds Greatest Comic Magazine" just does'nt cut it anymore. Numerious line-up changes have not helped this title (Fantastic Four).

Marvel's fall project of "Inferno" promises to be a strong seller. Most Marvel collectors will be getting all the crossovers, as it seems now that just about everyone in the Marvel Universe is a Mutant!! Including the editors. Marvel has regained its position as number one in the market share.

Over at "that" other company, Batman has been putting holes in the racks. Batman, "A Death In The Family" has sold very well. And the Cult... well what can I say. A great story, a pretty package, and the collectors love it. All Batman titles are selling well right now and this will continue throughout 1989 and his 50th Anniversary.

As stated last report, most DC back issues are slow sellers with only post crisis books being bought (I'm talking recent back issues here). So nothing has changed here. On the new books, JLI is still strong and DC's best seller. Other constant strong sellers include Flash, Green Arrow, Wonder Woman, V for Vendetta, and Animal Man. John Byrne is gone, and guess what? the Superman books are just as good! Some surprises include Hawk & Dove mini, and the Deadshot mini. Both are selling real well. Cosmic Odyssey and the Prisoner both have just come out as I write this and both have sold out here. There has ben alot of activity with the New Teen Titans title of late. Perez is back and people are picking it up again. Recent titles such as Checkmate, Manhunter, New Guardians, Wanderers, Starman, Atom, and Doom Patrol have a steady, but smaller readership.

Invasion looks like a blockbuster for DC. Great writer, great artists and a great format should spell success. Lots of crossovers, but most will relate with each other rather than the main three issue story. We are all experienced veterans with crossovers by now (right?). Last years Milliennium series left alot to be desired. But Invasion will be real solid. Other series that will be blockbusters for DC will be Black Orchid, Prisoner, Dr. Fate, Mister Miracle and Sandman.

And what about Action Comics Weekly? Either DC fans hate it or love it. Not a great seller by any means, but its there, on time, every week; making customers happy, and if ordered right, retailers smiling.

Nothing has changed as far as the "Independents" are concerned. There are no "HOT" number ones anymore, therefore the "collector/spectulator" has stopped buying them. So the demand has dropped to the point that even the excellent titles are suffering. A world to everyone reading this: if you don't support these books, they may not be around someday. Then all we will have are the big two. And I'm not knocking the big two, its just that someday you may want something more than superhero books. If books like Concrete, Flaming Carrot, Love & Rockets, Trouble With Girls, Cerebus along with too many more to mention, are not supported and cease publishing, then its time for this writer to leave the current comics market.

There are some hot selling independents. TMNT is selling like hot-cakes again. So the one comic thats mostly responsible for the whole black and white boom still exists and is doing well. Other good sellers include Aliens (where is #2?) and the Terminator.

Nothing has changed in the Golden/Silver Age market. The demand is out there and the supply gets harder to find, thus prices go up constantly. High grade DC and Marvels usually always sell for over guide and are getting next to impossible to find. The supply of middle grade books is out there, so these sell at about guide. Five years agao, people wanted only the 10 cent-ers comics, three years ago people started looking around for the 12 cent-ers. Now the 15 cent-ers have come of age. These books are reaching over twenty years old now and are getting just slightly harder to find. That twenty year mark seems to be the magic barrier that seperates the newer comics from the "collectors" comics.

For the newer market I see the rest of 1988 to continue to be dominated by the big two companies, which will offer quality products to the collector. The independents will be trying to hold their current market share for the time being. The older collectors market will continue to be a matter of supply and demand. So in summary, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Cliff's Books

Deland, FL.
Dateline Deland:

Well, what a summer. Fast, furious and now it's over. Both of the "Big Guys" really gave their all in the last three months, flooding the market with some great items and a couple of stinkers. Even some of the "Little Guys" came up with a few surprises. Lets get to it!

DC: This year seems to be the year of the "Bat", even though Bat's anniversary is next year. The Cult Book has sold well but we're still waiting for that final issue - once again the momentum was there but where's the climax! The regular Batman titles are steady sellers as are the following - Checkmate, The New Guardians, Green Arrow, Legion of Superheroes, Justice League Int., Flash, Wonder Woman, Power of the Atom, Doc Savage and the first TSR book. Ultra Hot are V For Vendetta and the Hawk & Dove mini series. What about Superman you might ask? Well old Sups is still plugging along. I noticed a slight decline in sales when Byrne left the book but most of the steady readers have kept with it. What I did see was a definite dislike for the three mini series that gave us background info on the Man of Steel. The first issues sold fairly well but then the series went into the dumper... and speaking of the DUMPER; Action Comics Weekly sure ended up there and will probably stay there until the powers that be put Superman back into the title and please, two pages don't count, come on! Here are a few more titles that have followed Action's lead into the black abyss: The Shadow, Doom Patrol, Starman, Suicide Squad, The Question, All Star Squad and we'll see if Mr. Perez can salvage the New Teen Titans.

MARVEL: The summer blitz did all right for the House of Ideas. The bi-weekly schedule treated the X-Men and Spider-Man well but really finished off the G.I. Joe title. The other bi-weekly title - Marvel Comics Presents is doing fine. Excaliber and Wolverine have blasted into the limelight and are selling like crazy. (But who didn't expect that?). Here are some more steady sellers; The Punisher, Dare Devil, Iron Man, the rest of the Mutant books, Cloak & Dagger, Thor, Groo, Sub Mariner limited series, all of the Avengers books (West Coast, Solo, etc.), Silver Surfer, and the Incredible Hulk. Lets not forget Capt. America and Strike Force. But... even Marvel had a few duds this year, lets hear it for the Shadow Line Series, The New Universe books and Dragon Claws.

INDEPENDENTS: Here we have the survivors and a few hangers on - the cosmic debris left over from the great comic implosion of '87. Kitchen Sink has given us the great Xenozoic Tales, Omaha and the fateful return of, yes, Megaton Man! Those "Turtle Guys" are still kicking around; even though they have had an animated series and a complete line of action figures their books are selling great! Wild Bill is still out there, putting out his great Americomic Line. Bill, by the way, was one of the first independent publishers - next year marks his 20th anniversary in this business! Usagi Yojimbo, the killer rabbit, is still wandering the land - hopefully forever. Mr. Adams is still around with his Continuity Line - Samuree, The Revengers Armor and Toy Boy to name a few. These have a devout following here. Richard Corben's Fantagor Press is still putting out books - good books that are steady sellers. Genesis West is still producing Viking Heroes which also sells very well. DARK HORSE is probably on top of the heap with their award winner Concrete. For anyone who hasn't read this book - shame on you - get a copy - NOW! D.H. also produces The American and Mr. Monster.

Now how about some "Dead Wood"? Eclipse has produced the most over the last six months, even Airboy has plummeted in sales. Hand Of Fate, Phase, Liberty Project, the rest of the Airboy titles, and Scout: War Shaman have dropped off to nothing, the Japanese titles never did sell. First Comics also has a few books in this category. Lone Wolf And Cub has slipped completely and so has American Flagg. Cross Roads never got started. The Michael Moorcock books have stayed about the same, as have Dreadstar, Badger, Evangeline and Nexus. Blackthorn has produced such "winners" as Planet Comics and Jungle Comics. How could anyone put such gorgeous covers around such drek? The rest of the line hasn't faired much better. The only thing saving them must be the Dick Tracy books. Most of Eternitys' books are still collecting dust on my shelves as are the Comico books (with the exception of the Rocketeer Adventure Magazine which sold out in a few days). Now that Apple has finished with Myth Conceptions and can't seem to get the next issue of Space Ark out on time what else is there? Oh, ElfQuest is late as usual.

Now I'll pick two hits of the year. 1. Aliens from Now Comics - this one caught everyone with their pants down - #1 is running around $8 to $10 and climbing. 2. Black Kiss from Vortex - Wow. This is a wild one. Mr. Chaykin is full of surprises and he's really pushing it to the limit. #1 is floating around $6.00 and #2 at $4.00.

BACK ISSUE DEPT.: Sales from the "White Boxes" have been a little sluggish over the summer mainly due to the herds of new product being produced by the big two. From DC the best back issue mover is Batman - anything with the Dark Knight in it is selling. These are followed closely by almost any titles from the Silver Age time period - the more obscure the better. Who ever thought there would be a market for Brother Power And The Geek? Early issues of Metal Men are still hard to find as are issues of the Inferior Five and Metamorpho. The books in the most demand are those with a 12 cent cover price on them. Also in high demand are any of the 80 pg. Giants and 80 pg. Annuals. (Bats and Sups especially.) Marvel - as usual, the best moving back issue books are the X-Men and related books (will this ever end?). These are followed closely by most of the early Marvels; Spiderman, F.F., Avengers and the first six issues of The Hulk. Something that is getting harder to find are the "duel story" books - Tales To Astonish, Tales Of Suspense and Strange Tales. These books are on the rise and will be something to watch in the future. By the way, G.I. Joe has officially died - haven't seen any action in back issue sales in at least a year. Who's the hottest character from Marvel? The Punisher of course... but isn't $55.00 a bit much for a mint copy of Spidey #129? Can anyone really document a sale? *[Documented sale of $65 for a NM copy is verified - JW]* I've never witnessed one and I know none of my customers would pay it. Back issue sales on Independent titles are practically non-existent, except for a few of the titles mentioned before. The leaders here are the Turtle books - still selling well at guide prices. Most of the others are dead weight on the drag strip.

GOLDEN AGE: Now this is where the real action is. The most furious activity I've seen is in this category. Superman and Batman books lead the way with most of the Timely and other D.C. superhero books close behind. The hot time period for these books is from 1940 to around 1947 or 1948. These books are selling at or a little above guide if they have been graded properly. There are still some deals out there though, if you are on your toes and keep looking.

Well that's all for now, Orlando Con '88 is this coming weekend so it will be interesting to see what will be going on there. Have a good Fall.

WHATS HOT WHATS NOT NEWS

WHATS HOT WHATS NOT NEWS

Dennis Behrend, Back Issue Specialist
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1988 has been a year of major changes in the comic industry, many of which will have a profound impact on the comic book market in the months to come. As noted in our last Market Report, the most significant of these changes is the increase of cover prices on almost every comic book. These price increases have forced many comic buyers to cut back on the number of comics they normally purchase. However, there has been no reduction in overall sales - the price increase has offset any loss from a decrease in the total volume sales of new comics. People are still spending the same amount of money, they just are not able to buy as many comics as they did a year ago. Independent comics have suffered the worst from the price increases. The average cost of most independents is $1.75 - $1.95. This is too expensive for some consumers, especially when the average cost of most D.C. and Marvel comics averages $1.00. Ironically, it is not just the overall price increase of the market which is forcing people to cut back on the number of independent comics they purchase, but the price increase of the independent comics themselves. This trend could cause problems for most independent comic companies. Hopefully, these companies will take notice of this problem and attempt to remedy it.

Although weekly and bi-weekly comics are nothing new in the comic industry, this is the first year D.C. and Marvel have attempted to produce weekly and bi-weekly comics on a regular basis. The results of this new venture are mixed. X-Men, G.I. Joe, and Spider-Man sold extremely well during their summer schedule as bi-weekly comics. These comics did well as a result of their popularity and because they were able to continue with the same stories they had started (no "filler" stories). However, comics which featured 8-10 page installments of different stories, such as Action Comics Weekly and Marvel Comics Presents, were not as successful. People found it more confusing to keep-up with the "installment" comics and more expensive. Thus, weekly and bi-weekly comics appear to work best when they focus on just one story.

Another substantial development this year is a change in the schedule of large scale comic projects. Traditionally, summer is the time of year when D.C. and Marvel release their "big comic events" and cross-overs (i.e. the "Mutant Massacre" and Millennium), while autumn is the time when interest in many comics begins to calm. This year, both companies have set their "big comic events", "Inferno" & "Invasion!", for an autumn release in an attempt to preserve an active interest in their titles during an otherwise slow time. A strong emphasis on major comic events during autumn could be just what the comic industry needs to keep interest and sales up all year round. However, such an emphasis could also create a glut in new issue sales. D.C. and Marvel are approaching this venture at the same time, which, along with the release of many prestige format comics, could flood the market with too many comics at a time when people just don't have the money to buy them. It is just too hard to predict if this plan will help or hurt the market.

For its tenth year in a row, the X-Men continues to command current and back issue sales. New issues consistently sell out and all Inferno cross-overs are selling better than expected. Back issues on all X-Men comics continue to sell very well, especially early issues of the original X-Men. New issues sales on Classic X-Men, The New Mutants, and X-Factor remain steady, and the demand for back issues on these titles continues to grow.

Excalibur follows close behind the X-Men as Marvel's second most successful title. Sales on this comic are very high and there is strong back issue demand for last December's Excalibur Special. Also, many people are searching out back issues of Marvel Team-Up #s 65-66 and Captain America #s 305-306, all of which feature Captain Britain in his pre-Excalibur days.

Although all X-Men related titles have been very successful, there is one which is selling a little slower than the rest - Wolverine! Yes, that's right, Wolverine. Sales on the new Wolverine series, as well as Marvel Comics Presents, have been good, but lower than expected. Many Wolverine and X-Men fans have been disappointed with the artwork on these comics. Nevertheless, back issue sales on all previous Wolverine comics continue to escalate. The most popular of these are the Wolverine mini-series, Kitty Pryde and Wolverine, Spider-Man vs. Wolverine, Web of Spider-Man #29, The Hulk and Wolverine one-shot, Hulk #340, and Captain America Annual #8.

The Punisher is still on target in current and back issue sales. The Punisher War Journal has sold very well, and issue #4, featuring a Punisher-Wolverine team-up, should prove to be a big seller. However, with two regular titles, cross-overs into other comics, and plans for at least three graphic novels, Marvel must be careful not to over-saturate the market with too many Punisher stories.

Todd McFarlane remains one of the most popular new artists in comics. Sales on current issues of Spider-Man have increased considerably since he began to draw this title, and there is a big back issue demand for McFarlane's recent work on the Hulk.

Moebius' Silver Surfer mini-series is a big hit, and we can expect to see a strong fan interest for John Byrne's upcoming work on the West Coast Avengers and the new She-Hulk series.

Back issue sales on Iron Man #1 have been phenomenal! Remember when this comic was passed over by collector's and investor's? Now its market value has doubled from what it was just two years ago! At this rate, it would not be unreasonable to see a mint copy of this comic priced at $100 by 1990.

Interest in The 'Nam has picked-up again. There has been an unexpected demand for back issues of 'Nam #s 18-21. The reason for this is that these were the first four issues to be sold only through the direct sales market, so a lot of the people who do not frequent direct sales outlets missed these issues.

The demand continues to grow for back issues of Groo, Longshot, and the Black Panther mini-series. These comics sell out as fast as they become available.

Although Marvel has produced some very successful comics this past year, the real hits have come from DC. One name says it all: Batman! There is just no end to an ever increasing interest in the Caped Crusader. The first two installments of the "Death In The Family" story have sold out within a week of their arrival. Although sales on Batman: The Cult #s 2 & 3 have levelled-off, there is an incredible back issue demand for copies of issue #1. Almost all back issues of Batman before issue #250 are becoming harder and harder to find. Trade paperbacks of The Dark Knight Returns are very popular, and back issues of the original four issues are still in high demand.

Without a doubt, The Killing Joke is the single best selling comic for 1988. Second printings of this comic have sold very well, and back issue sales on first printings are still in high demand.

Alan Moore continues to lead the comic industry it into a new era with V For Vendetta. Even though Moore wrote most of this story seven years ago, it reads as well as his contemporary works in Swamp Thing and Watchmen. With high sales and an incredible story, this comic book is the best series of 1988!

Right behind V For Vendetta is the second best series of the year - Hawk and Dove. Each issue of this mini-series has sold out! The story is intriguing, exciting, and a lot of fun. Rob Liefeld's artwork on this series is fantastic (watch him - this guy will be the next Art Adams)! The only real problem with this comic is that it's a mini-series. Hopefully, DC will realize that they have a really good comic with a lot of potential, and make this comic a regular monthly title.

George Perez is back on The New Titans, but maybe too late. A lot of people have lost interest in this series since

he left. Perez's return issue (#50) has sold better than expected, but its difficult to say if this title can regain its status as one of the top selling comics.

Although new issue sales of Green Arrow have leveled-off, there has been a resurgence in the demand for back issues of the regular series and the Long Bow Hunters mini-series.

DC is releasing a number of prestige format comics this autumn, among which are Black Orchid, Cosmic Odyssey, and The Prisoner. Black Orchid looks very good and many people speculate it will be this years' sleeper. Cosmic Odyssey has been selling better than expected. The Prisoner is very good. Unfortunately, most comic buyers are hesitant to buy the comic because they have never seen the Prisoner T.V. series, so it will take some time for people to catch on.

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles remain the top selling independent comic book. Interest in the Turtles has increased sharply this year, and back issues of many Turtles comics are scarce.

The only note of interest with Cerebus is that issue #104, guest starring the Flaming Carrot, is hard to find and prices may rise considerably for this particular issue.

First and second printings of Aliens #1 have sold out. This comic is a hit and should prove to be a big collector's item in future years.

Back issue sales on Mad and all Archie comics have increased tremendously this year. Old copies of these titles are hard to find, especially copies in very fine to mint condition.

Sales on all Japanese comics have dropped dramatically. Lone Wolf & Cub, Speed Racer, Astro Boy, the Robotech series, Area 88, Kamui, and Mai have all taken a turn for the worse from the popularity just one year ago. The reason seems to be the cost of all these comics - they are just too expensive for people to keep up with. The only titles to escape this downward trend is Xenon and (to a small audience) the Racer X mini-series. However, don't write-off all these comics too quickly. The new Robotech series, The Sentinels, could take fans by surprise. Like the other Robotech comics, this series will reprint episodes of the Sentinels T.V.. However, The Sentinels has yet to be contracted for television broadcast. Thus, the only chance for people to "see" The Sentinels is to buy the comic.

THE ANOMALY DEPARTMENT: This year's misprint cover for Wasteland #5 could have proved a genuine collector's item, except that the series has not been very popular, so the collector's demand for this comic has been minimal.

THE STAR WARS CHALLENGE: Thank you to all the kind people who responded to our inquiry of the 35 cent edition of Star Wars #1. Also, special thanks to Jon Warren for his editor's note about this rare comic. We are thoroughly convinced that this comic does in fact exist, but that most copies are in the possession of collector's who do not wish to part with them. We are still interested in obtaining some type of visual proof of this comics' existence and would greatly appreciate a photograph.

Barry Branvold
Collector's Corner
306 North 4th Street
Grand Forks, ND

The fall is a time for college students to arrive in the area and gradually discover or rediscover our comic store. But it also sends 18 and under back to school so we see a drop in business during the morning and afternoon hours. This is not a good market area for selling Golden Age books, so my market report will generally reflect new product, or recent back issue trends.

New Product: September for DC looks like a re-vamping of 3 discontinued slow sellers: Plastic Man, Unknown Soldier, & Dr. Fate - none of which I see much hope.

September for Marvel sees a revamp of Spiderman and his amazing friends with Marvel Action Universe - it isn't selling! The Punisher is! And the Stray Toasters is just getting by!

New for October: DC has 3 good chances here with Invasion, and Todd MacFarlane doing some of the work. He seems to have a golden touch lately. Also Black Orchid is expected to be popular, let's wait and see, & advanced D&D; if this book sells anything like the Dragonlance book did, it will surely be a hit.

Marvel didn't have any notable new titles for October, but Gladstone is releasing Donald Duck Adventures #11 with the Don Rosa Story - "Return To Plain Awful", this book will be another "Son Of The Sun"!

New for November: DC seems to think they can redo all their old titles and expect them to sell to new readers when we wouldn't buy them 10-20 years ago. It won't work.DC! Coming in November is: New Gods, Mister Miracle, Sandman, & Gammarauders. The Gammarauders is a new title but a take off of a role-playing game that didn't sell either. Sandman has some interesting art that may help sell some of them. The other two I give no hope.

New from Marvel for November: Dino-Riders is a new toy-tie-in book that will appeal to transformer readers and all the kids who love dinosaurs. Deaths Head is a title I expect moderate success. Finally after a 2 month delay, Havok/ Wolverine Meltdown, the art is a little off-beat for most fans, but Wolverine can sell even this. New from Eternity in November is Robotech II-Sentinels, this should sell fairly well. And from Another Rainbow- Mickey Mouse in color, an expensive book but worth it.

Recent back issue trends: Batman material continually disappears out of boxes, 'Nam 19-22 has been selling (went direct sale around this time), Spider-Man between 100 & 200, Marvel Tales (cheap Spidey stories), X-Men, Iron Man, recent G.I. Joes, evolutionary cross-overs, Excalibur - how could you miss this title when it was new? The same with recent Wolverine issues.

Fall Forecast: No big blockbuster issues. Steady sales into the Christmas season.

M. Wayne Williams
Aardvark Comics and Collectables
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

My, what a difference a few weeks can make! Summer is almost over and we're having one tropical storm after another. Let me get on my soap box for one moment. We go into business for two reasons. First to provide a service or product. Second, and most important from our perspective, to make a profit. If profits decrease look at your service!

Now, on to what's hot. Still selling well at $7.50 is The Killing Joke. The second print hasn't moved, but shouldn't

WHATS HOT WHATS NOT NEWS

be expected to. After all it is a REPRINT! I'm hearing that word, the R word too often. Batman is increasing in sells due to the current Robin story line. We are selling twice the normal amounts. The telephone gimmick is working. Need I say anything about the Cult? DC can't seem to do anything wrong with the Batman.

Growing hot is the Hawk & Dove mini series. It wasn't hot at first, in fact it was an average seller. Then the second issue hit the shop and was gone. The third issue sold out three times!

Green Arrow is getting hotter. JLI, Wonder Woman and Legion have remained steady. Power of the Atom is fizzling. One title to watch is Animal Man. It is beginning to heat up both in monthly sells and in back issue sells.

I just had to find out why Brother Power The Geek and The Inferior Five are in such demand. It seems they are listed as part of the Ten Worse Comics of All Time. I have never seen this list and would like to know more about it. Does this list really exist? *[Editor's Note: I've never heard of a published list of the Ten Worst Comics Of All Time, but those titles would definitely qualify, right along with Bee-Man - JW]*

In the Marvel corner, big winners are the Wolverine #1 and The Punisher War Journal #1. The Evolutionary War series was another winner. Inferno will probably do as well or better.

Growing in sells is Daredevil. It is really heating up. The Hulk is another example of an established title growing in sells. On the other side of the coin, let me say one word about Speedball - dead. As are the Transformers and the REPRINT titles.

The winner and still champion of all comics, current and back issues, is the X-Men. We are having problems keeping up with demand. I thought twice a month would have slowed them down but they are growing instead.

Gladstone is gaining in sells. Not too many kids buy them, however, its mainly grown men above the age of twenty-one. The kids buy Duck Tales but the adults are buying Carl Barks and Don Rosa issues.

While TMNT Adv. sells three times better than the black and white version, spin off sells for other Archie titles is nonexistent. TMNT continues to be hot. Demand cannot be satisfied.

Surprize hits include the Tick and the Xanadu mini series. Who would have thought it! The Tick #1 hot, blows the mind doesn't it? And Xanadu! A big winner. Everyone says its like watching a Errol Flynn movie. Anyone have extra copies of #2? We won't be caught short on the next Xanadu mini series!

One final word before I close. The new Boris The Bear Adventure Magazine has shipped and has sold very well. I certainly hope someone can find a sense of humor and won't attempt litigation. If so, Boris and all, we're on your side! Happy collecting!

Kevin Martin

Market Report

Moving into the Fall and out of the Summer has shown no end to the interest in both recent and silver age back issues as well as the quality items being released by the comic publishers. It should come as no surprise that leading the pack of HOT back issues are: Amazing Spiderman #129 and Incredible Hulk #181 - the two origin/1st app of what seems to be everybody's favorite heroes - The Punisher and Wolverine. Their own series' sell incredibly well and the fans don't seem to care how brief an appearance one of these guys makes - they just must have a copy!

Wolverine and Punisher are two of Marvel's hits but we can't overlook DC.

At DC old seems to be best. Batman has a momentum building towards the Dark Knights 50th birthday (1989) and upcoming feature film. The new "Death in the Family" story running in Batman #426-429 is selling out around here as the fans get a chance to phone in and vote on the death of Robin. With Jack Nicholsen signed to play Batman's arch villain The Joker, the proverbial lid has been blown off the Batman and Joker appearance back issues! We expect prices on these issues to increase even more!

NEW SERIES NEWS - Excalibur is red hot! Fans love it and we've sold out of the first four issues so far! DC's Starman and Hawk & Dove mini-series is gaining fan support with each issue (watch for Showcase #75 to increase in price). Cosmic Odyssey was a Big hit here while the DC Prestige series Prisoner fared only average. Sub-Mariner and Dr. Strange both are selling fairly well with Wolverine and Punisher War Journal being huge successes as we mentioned earlier.

STORYLINES - Marvel's "INFERNO" is doing well as far as storylines are concerned although some of the higher priced crossovers i.e. Power Pack @ 1.50 are being skipped for the more mainline titles such as X-Men to read the story. (are you listening publishers?) The Typhoid Mary story is keeping Daredevil hotter still and there is a lot of interest in this months "Milestone" issues by Marvel which are: Thor #400, Capt. America #350 and Avengers #300, all of which promise to tie up long running plot-lines. There is an equal amount of interest building towards DC's "Invasion" series with Todd McFarlane (Amazing Spiderman artist) doing the art on the main title.

INVESTMENT ADVICE ? - Watch the Silver age books that still have the financial room to grow like Iron Man #1, Aquaman #1, Green Lantern #1-10, Hawkman #1, Atom #1, and the #2-10 of the more mainline titles like Spiderman and X-Men and especially the harder to find DC mainlines like Justice League or Atom and remember to buy the highest grade you can afford and ONLY if priced and graded properly!

So, keep coming to those conventions and patronizing those friendly neighborhood comic shops where you can get the latest OVERSTREET publication for up to the minute prices and Market reports! Until next time... Happy Collecting!!!

Dan & Dolores Ptaszek
Comix Corner
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Among the best selling books this year are those which involve Batman, such as; Detective, Batman, Cult, and the first printing of the Killing Joke. Justice League International continues to be a solid title for D.C. and Perez's return to Titans has generated well deserved interest in the book. For Marvel, the X-Men remain one of the hottest selling books out. Todd McFarlane's work on Amazing Spiderman has caused increased sales on this book and sparked interest in all three Spiderman titles. McFarlane's art on the Hulk was also inspired and the issues which he worked on are difficult to keep in stock.

Prestige format books like Cult, Shield, Cosmic Odyssey and Killing Joke have become very collectable. As long as Marvel and DC continue to give us the great quality we have come to expect in these books the Prestige format titles will definitely become more valuable as time goes by. A good one to look for in the future is Black Orchid from DC if the book

looks as good as the promotional information this could be a sleeper.

It is nice to see the Gladstone titles being received so favorably by established Disney Fans. New young readers, some of whom are experiencing comics for the first time in these titles, have also been quite pleased. Back issues of the Duck titles in particular do exceptionally well.

Titles selling well in current issues such as Spiderman, Batman, Captain America, Nam and Marvel's Mutant Titles are also enjoying a lot of action in back issues. Even the best laid plans sometimes go astray:

DC — ACTION WEEKLY - too little - too often
First — CROSSROADS - strong price - weak story
Eclipse — TOTAL ECLIPSE - big promo - no ship
Blackthorne — DICK TRACY WEEKLY - still monthly - 4 issues at once
Marvel — NEW UNIVERSE - mediocre plot - slow death.

Comics from the independent publishers, such as First, Eclipse, Dark Horse and Aircel, have become somewhat stagnant in sales. High prices do not attract the curiosity of new readers, although faithful followers of these publishers with their many diverse titles do remain. An exception to the slow down is Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles which continues to attract phenomenal amounts of new readers both for new issues and back stock. This Turtlemania extends to the three part TV adaptation done by Archie.

Other than a few novelty titles which enjoy a brief flash of glory and then disappear into comic oblivion, Marvel and DC have essentially taken over their rightful place at the helm of the comic wheel.

In our opinion, some interesting upcoming comics to look for are: DC - Invasion three part series drawn by McFarlane, Marvel - Meltdown four part series painted by Muth, VIZ Comics - Grey and Nausiaca Valley, North Star - Faust done by Grips artist Tim Vigil and Marvel - continuing Inferno storyline especially Amazing Spiderman #313 with McFarlane's flamboyant Lizard cover.

Overall, the Comic Collecting Market continues to grow, as the quality of the books produced improves consistently, appealing to a much larger audience. Our hobby can now be appreciated both for the collectability of these books as well as enjoyment of the art work and the pleasure of reading a good story.

Richard & Wayne Gifford
Rich's Comic Shoppe
Middletown, Ohio

If you're reading this then you're obviously one of the hordes of comic fans who is eagerly awaiting the answer to an all too familiar question—"What's Hot?" Well, in Ohio, the answer is Marvel!! Marvel has had some real winners lately with revamps on flagship titles such as; DAREDEVIL (TYPHOID), AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (McFarlane), IRON MAN (Guice and Layton), FANTASTIC FOUR (New team line up), and various others. However, it isn't just the older titles that are selling well for Marvel. Other titles that are doing extremely well include: ALF, PUNISHER, PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL, WOLVERINE, MARVEL COMICS, EXCALIBUR, SEMPER FI, and you can expect the upcoming HAVOK AND WOLVERINE mini series to set record sales as well. However, one cannot expect all titles that a specific company publishes to be hits. This is a list of cooler Marvel titles: SPEEDBALL, THOR, POWER PACK, CLASSIC X-MEN, ALPHA FLIGHT, and countless others. Dog dead Marvels include: TRANSFFORMERS, G.I. JOE, DRAGONCLAWS, and G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS.

DC continues to have successes with their prestige format titles. Never in my wildest dreams would I have expected THE PRISONER to sell out in one day, yet that's exactly what it did! Cosmic Odyssey was also a colossal hit! Other DC titles doing well include: BATMAN: DEATH IN THE FAMILY, THE QUESTION, GREEN ARROW, JUSTICE LEAGUE, FLASH, WONDER WOMAN, and you can expect INVASION and BLACK ORCHID to sell extremely well also. Cooler DC titles include: SUPERMAN, TEEN TITANS, CHECKMATE, THE SHADOW, DOC SAVAGE, CAPTAIN ATOM, COPS, DOOM PATROL, SUICIDE SQUAD, and HELLBLAZER. Dog dead DC titles include: YOUNG ALL STARS, STARMAN, ACTION WEEKLY, FIRESTORM, and SPECTRE.

As far as Independents go, there are still some hot ones out there folks! Among these are: ALIENS, AMERICAN, CEREBUS, GRENDEL, GLADSTONES, FLAMING CARROT, SOUTHERN KNIGHTS, and JUDGE DREDD. Cooler Independents include: JONNY QUEST, ROBOTECH, SABLE, AMERICAN FLAGG!, GODZILLA, and GORE SHRIEK. Dog dead Independents include: KAMUI, AREA 88, LONEWOLF & CUB, JADEMAN, SPEED RACER, RACER X, MEGATON MAN, and literally countless others.

In the market of back issues, Marvel continues to lead the way. Early issues of INCREDIBLE HULK, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, CAPTAIN AMERICA, DAREDEVIL, CONAN, AVENGERS, and SHIELD sell very well. Recently I sold a NM/VF copy of Captain America 310 for $18.00, which is well above guide! DC fairs well with newer back issues such as J.L.I., GREEN ARROW, BATMAN, DETECTIVE, SUPERMAN, and believe it or not, THE QUESTION, am I the only one that sells this comic? Older DC titles that sell well have to be either really ragged (and cheap), or really attractive (and expensive). No one seems to come in and ask for a middle of-the-road condition issue of golden age Batman. As far as independent back issues are concerned invest your money in T.M.N.T., GLADSTONES, JUDGE DREDD, ALIENS and AMERICAN, as well as CEREBUS and CONCRETE.

Older back issues that are not published by Marvel or DC that sell well include Gold Keys such as STAR TREK, RAWHIDE, AVENGERS, I LOVE LUCY, MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E., and FLIPPER. Dells such as ROY ROGERS, GENE AUTRY, and PEANUTS. Western titles such as GABBY HAYES, TOM MIX, HOPALONG CASSIDY, BONANZA, and others, and any other TV westerns.

In closing, I would like to add that our industry is finally receiving the recognition it deserves. Comic books have been accepted by the media as a form of illustrated literature and are receiving the kind of TV exposure they deserve. Examples of this exposure is evident by the following: SUPERBOY TV SERIES, BATMAN MOVIE, X-MEN ANIMATED PILOT, MARVEL UNIVERSE ANIMATED SERIES, and rumors of a SPIDER-MAN MOVIE. So, to the general public we are now considered a business at long last, and for that we should feel proud.

Howard Harris
Comics & Records Unlimited
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San Antonio, Texas

MARKET REPORT: SEPTEMBER, 1988

Hello again! Since this is a new report, I thought we'd start by talking about the NEW ISSUE MARKET. Like always, there have been some real surprises in the past few months, both good and bad! On the good side, Aliens 1 (first printing) has been HOT since it first hit our shelves. The supply here keeps local prices at $3.50. Marvel's Evolutionary Wars has been a winner, with the Punisher Annual selling briskly at $4.00, the Silver Surfer Annual moving well at $3.00, and the others selling at a good pace at $2.00. Chaykin's Black Kiss is high in demand and low in supply, creating a market price of $8.00 and $3.00 for number 1 and 2 respectively. Marvel strikes again with the Inferno series. All of the tie-ins are selling real well (at cover price). We thought DC was going to get another HIT out of Cosmic Odyssey, but due to its delay the interest has waned.

The "Dog of the Year" award has to go to DC for Action Comics Weekly. Depending on what Marvel does to Marvel Comics Presents, they could end up sharing this dubious honor! The "Come Back of the Year" award belongs to Captain America. The "Artist of the Year" has to be Todd McFarlane. He has created a dramatic increase in the number of Amazing Spiderman and Incredible Hulk collectors. The first McFarlane issues of both these titles sell fast at $3.50. Batman, The Cult is another HOT item (and we thought collectors would be getting tired of the premium format books).

Regarding RECENT BACK ISSUES, the "Comic Shop MVP (Most Valued Publication)" award still goes to the X-Men. There continues to be an adequate supply available for resale and an equally adequate supply of collectors wanting to complete X-Men collections. We sell X-Men back issues at about a 5 to 1 ratio over most other titles. The "Competitor of the Year" award belongs to the Justice League International. The JLI moves extremely well, and may one day take away the MVP award from X-Men.

SILVER-AGE COMICS are absolutely impossible to keep in stock! Here's some examples of recent (last 45-60 days) sales:

Tales of Suspense 39 VF+ $390; Flash 105 F- $200; Journey Into Mystery 83 F $275; Amazing Fantasy 15 VF/NM $1400; Avengers 1 G $60; Tales To Astonish 35 VF $175; Incredible Hulk 1 F $250; Tales Of Suspense 39 VG $175; Avengers 1 F $225; Avengers 4 VF/NM $200.

Two titles, Superman and Worlds Finest, have started to move more quickly than they have in years. We wouldn't call them HOT, but they are, perhaps, moderate.

Gold Keys deserve some special mention here! They tend to be relatively inexpensive and they're being collected by more and more people. Many of these collectors are offering multiples of guide prices for such issues as Astro Boy 1. Although this book would command a $100 price tag, most of the rest of the Gold Keys are priced from $2 to $10. Star Trek is an exception to this price range, but it is the top Gold Key title. Because of these lower average prices, many of our customers are trying to collect all Gold Key issues, but some (such as Johnny Quest 1, Astro Boy, Tasmanian Devil, and Frankenstein Jr.) are impossible to find.

DC War Comics (especially Our Army at War) have also been in high demand recently. Early Sgt. Rock appearances sell immediately whenever we can get them in stock. Our Fighting Forces, both 10 cent and 12 cent covers, priced below $5 each are instant sellers, too. We suggest watching a collectors reaction to the new Sgt. Rock film. It could cause even more collector demand (both new and old).

Any high grade 10 cent and 12 cent DC's sell real well. The new Hawk and Dove series is a hit, which has sparked a rush for early Hawk and Dove issues and appearances. Expect a price increase here.

Marvel Silver Age hasn't cooled off a bit! The first 20 issues in VF or better condition seem to jump off the shelves. The HOTTEST of the HOT is Tales of Suspense 39 in NM/M condition. It commands at least 20% over guide, and we have a significant waiting list if any collector out there has a few to spare!

GOLDEN-AGE COMICS haven't slowed down much, either. Batman, Comic Cavalcade, and All-Star in low grade (fair to good) or high grade (VF or better) disappear as soon as we can get them displayed. Green Lantern, Superman, and Flash move almost as quickly, with All-Flash, Action, and Detective at nearly the same pace.

Timelys sell at about half speed compared with DC's, with one exception: Marvel Mystery. Low grade issues move much quicker than medium and high grade copies. Fawcetts continue to move moderately well, with the scarcer last few issues selling more quickly. Fiction House titles are another second tier collectable that sell moderately as well. And there is a steady demand for obscure Golden Age books too.

HOT BOOKS (not discussed above) in South Texas are:

Green Lantern 59 - we haven't been able to display one for more than 24 hours before it is sold.
Incredible Hulk 181 - Although high grade copies are preferred, all sell fast.
Captain America 241 - The Punisher fans are going crazy trying to find one!
Amazing Spiderman 42 & 50 - We've got waiting lists for these books, too!
Thor 134 - Speculators after the first High Evolutionary.

To sum up this section, everyone seems to be looking for the next Green Lantern 40 or Showcase 4. Although we hate to see books escalate so quickly in price, there is enough sustaining demand to warrant the increasing prices.

We're going to share our thoughts by giving you two FUTURE PICKS. First, bet on Todd McFarlane to pull off another winner with INVASION. Yeah, we know, it's going to be a big crossover series, but we still thing it should be watched. Second, expect the Havok-Wolverine series to take off, too. We've heard that the artwork is pretty abstract, but the storyline (and characters) are first class. We're gambling this will be another top seller.

Jerry Barletta
Best American Comics Inc.

Overstreet Report Fall of '88

Sprinting into the Fall from the Summer, a lot is going on in our coast to coast report. Let's commence with Marvel.

Marvel is really smokin'! Coming off a real good following in sales generated especially by the Evolutionary War Annual crossovers, things continue to be hot for Marvel. The Punisher sales are tremendous. All Punisher appearances are hot. His own title is up at least 40% from a slow start. Wolverine is also moving very well both in Marvel Presents and his own

title. Marvel keeps the iron hot with Inferno. Mutants star in this project and it's already selling really well and we anticipate interest to be high reflected by strong sales. Bolstered by villains Mr. Sinister, N'astirh and S'ym (they add a different touch) and the Madelyne character unfolding. Will the Phoenix situation coming to a head - all this is excellent incentive to follow the story.

Another winner is Marvel's Excaliber. This book continues to sell well, really well. It's definitely a different mutant book with some good humor, and a very interesting match of characters. It's got Capt. Britain (produced and sold in England and not distributed in America), his comic will be repackaged into trade paperback form to serve as a prequel to the Excaliber series) as well as some original X-men. Fans of early X-men villains enjoy this book. Alan Davis on the art really makes it shine.

Their big deal works? Todd McFarlane continue to glisten. The art from Todd is really outstanding and is raising prices on everything he draws. His Spider-Man work is really awesome.

With John Byrne doing West Coast Avengers look for a marked rise in sales and watch for She-Hulk popularity to grow.

Let's talk a bit about Marvel back issues. Most are selling really well from 1961 up. Leaders are, of course, Punisher, with prices easily exceeding guide by 10% to 30%. All McFarlane issues are really hot. Longshot, Wolverine, X-Men, Daredevil and early Spider-Man are still moving fast in mint (and lesser conditions).

Nick Fury Vs S.H.I.E.L.D. is also an immensely popular Marvel publication. The story and format do justice to the interesting character of Nick Fury. These issues are hot and prices will go up.

On the down side of Marvel (a short list to be sure): G.I. Joe continues to die rapidly. Prices are plummeting. Nam is in a similar position for the same reason. There are too many reprints glutting the market, and impairing back issues sales. You can knock both titles out of speculative value of any type or manner.

Marvel's position over all is very strong and looks to continue into the Winter.

Now let's turn our attention to DC. Basically, the key words are Batman. Batman, and Invasion. Batman is really hot in all his titles. Demand and prices are up. Add to that the upcoming Greatest Joker Stories Ever Told and The Greatest Batman Stories Ever Told and you've got more Batmania.

Invasion, which is DC's big crossover book this Fall, should do quite well. With McFarlane doing the art, the book already has a solid following before hitting the stores. The Deluxe Format should be a treat.

Superman, although it's his fiftieth year, is not selling well.

The first issue of The Prisoner is doing well for DC and interest in future issues is solid.

With the revival of Mr. Miracle, Sandman, and New Gods (titles that really bombed in the past) with new formats and creative teams, there is hope that decent sales will emerge.

Action Comics Weekly is a definite bomb. The structure, price, and characters do not work. This book has got to be made bi-weekly or monthly. Weekly, however, just doesn't work at all!

DC back issues. Batman is strongest. In fact any title with Batman moves well, as do rare or special art issues. Justice League Of America, Justice League International, Flash, Green Lantern, and key DC titles are doing well.

Golden Age is a problem of supply. So despite a definite demand, sales are real hard to judge. More on this in our next report.

Independents. Immensely popular in all our stores is Black Kiss (straight pornography with no story line per se) as well as the adult Cherry and Omaha The Cat.

Blackthorn produces the largest assemblage of dust collectors amongst the independents. Dick Tracy alone appears to carry the line. That of course means that something that they had absolutely no creative control over, and written decades ago, is their only book that sells. Hmm. Tells you something hun?

Jademan Comics sell very, very well. Consistent sellouts have been Aliens and Terminator, from Dark Horse and Now Comics, respectively.

The college market that some of our stores serve are supporting the strong sales of a large number of black and white comics, specifically Love & Rockets, Flaming Carrot, Yummy Fur, Keif Llama Xeno-Tech. Contributing to sales was an article in Spin Magazine that built awareness amongst the public for these titles and independents in general.

Dissappointing sales persist regarding titles such as Arboy, Kamui, the whole Adventure line of comics and 3-D books in general.

Now's Racer X and Astroboy have stopped considerably in sales.

Quality's Judge Dredd, Strontium Dogs and Rogue Trooper outsell the rest of that line.

Aircel is doing well with decent black and whites and good color comics.

Present demand for back issues black and whites is falling off at an incredible rate. This follows on the heels of the black and white explosion of a couple years ago.

Documented sales include a signed Dark Knight hardcover in mint condition for $350.00; a Quadrant Hellrazor book in mint condition for $100, X-men #1 in good condition for $97.50, X-men #2 in poor condition for 50.00; as well as an Incredible Hulk #2 in good condition for $100.00.

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As the summer of '88 comes to a close, many customers (kids, especially) are having to cut back on their comics purchases. However, the new comics keep coming at a very fast pace. With everyone spending practically all their budgets, it doesn't leave much money for back-issues. What will the 'fall glut' bring? We'll certainly find out...

Of course, the big news in the recent comics scene is the popularity of the big-ticket items. What retailers used to think of as an over priced book has changed in the '88 market. If the fans want it, they're going to get it. Look at the prestige/ bookshelf formats graphic novels (Batman: Son of the Demon, Silver Surfer), trade paperbacks, and signed limited editions. The Killing Joke and Batman: The Cult led the way, with trade paperbacks of The Dark Knight, Watchmen, and Batman: Year One all selling very well. Graphic novel collections, like the Turtles, Grendel, and The 'Nam all consistently sell out when stocked in depth.

There are exceptions to this rule, though. Sales on Marvel's Hawkeye, The Thing, and Power Pack trade paperbacks were very weak. Surprise! The original comics are still plentiful and inexpensive. It makes you wonder why, with 26 years of material on hand, they would choose to reprint these. The effect of these reprints on the original comics has been mixed. Some mini-series, like The Dark Knight and Wolverine, are still very HOT, despite the reprints, yet demand for early 'Nam issues has cooled drastically. While this situation may anger some speculators at least those who just want to read the stories may do so without taking out a second mortgage on their homes.

However, new Marvel comics are still paying the rent, with X-men, Wolverine, and Excalibur leading the way. Look

for strong sales on the upcoming Havok and Wolverine series. Amazing Spider-Man is also enjoying very strong sales, in large part because of Todd McFarlane. The other Spidey books have fallen a little, due to the 'assembly line' work. Sales on most flagship Marvels are active, but Marvel's latest experiment, the Shadow Line Saga, along with New Universe, are dead in the water. ALF does very well when displayed near the front, but G.I. Joe and Transformers are steadily dropping each month, with back-issue sales almost non-existent.

Back-issue sales are led by X-Men, of course, but issues 94-140 have slowed. Silver Age Spider-Man in fine or better condition sell as fast as we can get them — a recent Spidey collection from #20-100 that we bought sold out in less than two weeks. Other Silver Age Marvels are also active (Fantastic Four, Avengers, Thor), when we can get them.

On the DC front, it's Batman. He's hot! Anything with the Dark Knight is selling faster than Unguentine at a leper colony. The Killing Joke did great, having sold out our original order of 400 in a day and a half. Even the back-issues move fast at $7.00 a copy. The Cult, while not as strong, is still doing quite well - although the delays have hurt sales slightly. The popularity of these mini-series has also increased interest in the regular Batman and Detective titles. DC's prestige format means almost instant best-sellers, but if not careful, it can be abused (Blackhawk, The Draft).

Justice League International is still tops in the DC sales. Spinoffs like The Weird and last year's Mr. Miracle Special were successful in our stores. The new regular series of Mr. Miracle should be one to look out for. Green Arrow is another DC winner. Demand for back-issues of the regular title and The Longbow Hunters mini-series is high. Superman has cooled off slightly with John Byrne's departure. Most people feel that since they have the complete run, why stop now? All the Superman titles are still respectable. The sales on Action Comics Weekly are dropping each month. The $1.50 a week pop and lack of the more popular characters are what most people complain about. Still, when you add four weeks worth, it's still a good monthly money-maker. Although weekly comics are a great idea (look at weeklies in Japan and England), DC has yet to perfect it.

Sales on Animal Man, Manhunter, New Guardians, and Power of the Atom, have been low to moderate. Middle-of-the-road books include Swamp Thing, Hellblazer, The Question (underrated), Doom Patrol, Starman, and The Shadow.

DC back-issues are very slow on most titles, until you hit the early Silver and Golden Age books. Top back-issues include Star Trek (both series), Green Arrow, Batman, and JLI.

Independents: The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are enjoying a revival, thanks to the cartoon and the toy tie-ins. The Turtles are the only REALLY hot independent at our stores currently. The popularity with the kids means going from the G.I. Joe-type comics to the Turtles. Look for prices to begin rising again, especially on the low-print-run early issues.

Although we can't forget about Cerebus, Scout, Elfquest, and Concrete back-issues after the Turtles. Dark Horse's Aliens #1 set a new independent sales record here, although interest seems to be dying fast with the long wait for #2. Regardless of what some publishers seen to think, long delays between issues DO hurt sales.

This is about it for our share of the market. We thank the staff of Overstreet Publications for asking us to participate as advisors to the bulletins. We look forward to doing this again next season.

D. W. Howard And Lyn Winter
Super Giant Books & Comics
North and South Carolina

Overstreet Market Report
(September, 1988)

The new comic market continues to separate the men from the boys, to use a sexist cliche. What a whole lot of people still haven't realized is that a creative flowering and a commercial glut are the same thing! If you are serious about comics as art and literature, then you want to see as many artists and writers as possible doing as many different features as possible for as many different publishers as possible. This coin has two sides, and the other side is that more titles pushed into same size market equals comics settling on dealers' shelves with no one to buy them.

During the Black & White explosion/implosion of a couple years ago, hobby and industry spokespersons assured us that the glut then was caused only by a lack of quality on so many of those titles. Quality is in the eye of the beholder, but we think everyone can agree that the average quality of titles being published this summer was much higher than the average of summer 1986. Yet, we still have a glut! Why? One reason could be that, in many ways, the market for new comics really hasn't grown much. Most dealers are still filling the same old reserve lists. Simultaneously, during the last two years, the number of comic shops has increased considerably. (For that matter, the number of conventions hasn't decreased.) The result is that many shops which used to have a more extended regular clientele — from suburban or adjacent rural areas—are finding many of their former customers being served by someone who's doing business closer to where the customer lives. The adjustment isn't hard to make on a title like X-MEN; but on other titles, the choice may be to order or not to order.

We'd like to reiterate that concept of a minority interest title. Such a comic may be very well done, both as to art and story; however, because of the concept it does not have a wide appeal. We speak not of any sort of highbrow/lowbrow difference, we merely speak of individual taste. Some titles will only appeal to a certain lifestyle/outlook; for other potential readers, it just won't be their cup of tea. It is these titles that are most worrisome. Two years ago a dealer might order 6, sell 4 and back-stock the balance. Today, he may find that two of his former 4 sales are going to a newly set-up dealer. That leaves only two customers, with less potential to attract new readers because the title is a minority appeal comic. For a lot of shops, this means order reserves only.

New people are entering the hobby. They can basically be divided into two types: Type 1 is interested in comics as art/literature, and has been brought to comics by mass media attention to such comics as DARK KNIGHT and WATCHMEN. A type 1 neofan is generally specifically interested in what the newspaper or magazine article he read recommended. Type 1 people often have the mindset that comics are for kids and subliterates—except those the magazine recommended. Suggestions to try something else may fall on deaf ears. These people are very hard to sell to. A dealer can clerk the sale on the recommended title, but a Type 1 guy or gal is very suspicious of anything else. Type 2 is interested in comics as collectible/investible, and has been brought to comics by other mass media articles. Type 2 people want something worthwhile, both in terms of reading values and in terms of being a relatively safe place for their money. They are, for example, very suspicious of titles that come out at $1.50, only to wind up in the dealer's 50 cent box a month later. (They think: A, why should I buy it now for $1.50 when I could get it next month for 50 cent? And B, if it were any good to read, the dealer should be able to get at least cover for it, shouldn't he?). Both these Types are very selective. Neither generally has pleasant childhood memories of Superman or Spider-Man to wax nostalgic over. We suspect that for many of them, comics will be only a momentary fad. Others will stick around to become part of the hobby.

From the Silver Age up, we see attention continuing to focus on major DC and Marvel characters. Mid-number AVENGERS or GREEN LANTERNs march right out as soon as we get them, for example. Dozens of minor titles continue to go unwanted. Generally, the big push on any new DC title that we experienced last year is over. Buyers then seemed eager to build complete sets of all new DC's; now we find a lot of folks dropping titles, and being more selective on the new #1's.

In Marvels, so many new #1's have been sort of odd-ball that an overall tendency is harder to figure. The "Shadowline Saga" titles aren't mainstream Marvels, and their performance isn't indicative of Marvel overall. MARVEL ACTION UNIVERSE was quickly identified—for good or ill—as a "kiddie" title, and most of our customers steered clear of it. SEMPER FI, of course, had its own built-in readership crossed over from THE NAM.

We notice that our customers this year aren't as eager for "The Inferno" as they were last year for "Fall of the Mutants". We feel that mutation may have peaked and begun to decline, based on this and on lukewarm reception for MARVEL COMICS bi-weekly. Also, we note that there is increasing price resistance for X-MEN numbers priced over $5, if they are available as a CLASSIC X-MEN reprint. (To be fair about it, though, we have also noticed that many people who skipped MARVEL COMICS when it came out have decided to go back and pick up "just the Wolverine issues." In addition, we are seeing the new WOLVERINE #1 selling for $3.00)

Following the success of THE KILLING JOKE and the CULT, we also see a lukewarm reception for COSMIC ODYSSEY. NICK FURY VS. SHIELD is selling well, but at a lower level than it could. Perhaps the "Prestige" format really isn't suitable for some offerings. Definitely, the format is not a guarantee of reader and collector interest! The problem here is that the publishers can make more on the more expensive format. Who will—who can—determine what stories are suitable for this treatment?

We continue to have considerable interest in major title Golden Age, Silver Age, EC's, and pre-Code horror and science fiction material generally. We have also found that EC's FRONTLINE COMBAT and TWO-FISTED TALES are often of interest to readers of THE NAM. The realistic, no-sugar-coating treatment of war in all three titles exercises considerable cross-appeal. (For that matter, many John Severin fans from the EC segment have latched onto SEMPER FI.)

What's on tap for the rest of the year? Christmas, of course! But we are also looking with interest toward an upcoming issue of PLAYBOY that is to include a long article about comics by Harlan Ellison. The sheer size of PLAYBOY's readership should guarantee that at least some new faces will be seen at shops and cons after the article appears. And if PLAYBOY is correct about their reader profile—in terms of age, intelligence, and income! — we expect to ring up some pretty good sales afterward. Harlan, the ball is in your court!

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Greetings from Schenectady! We're delighted to be part of the Overstreet Family, and are anxious to jump right in:

NEW ISSUES - We don't think anyone will disagree with us when we say that Marvel is back in the driver's seat when it comes to new issue sales. Their policy of relying on proven characters to create new books is producing hit after hit (Punisher, Punisher War Journal, Wolverine, Excalibur, e.g.). They've also turned once mediocre books such as Iron Man and Captain America into exciting books with exciting sales! The McFarlane Spider-Man issues sell extremely well, and McFarlane and Peter David have revived the Hulk as well. Even without McFarlane on Hulk now, it sells much better than in years past. The Inferno tie-in books are all selling briskly, with X-Men leading the way, of course. Marvel's "Evolutionary War" annuals were nicely packaged and sold very well, although we're sure that the appearance of Alf and the Punisher in the same storyline sent continuity freaks into epileptic convulsions!

Thor and Fantastic Four sell well, and Alpha Flight, Silver Surfer and the 'Nam are moderate sellers. Books like Wolfpack, Strikeforce: Monturi and all the Shadowline Saga books are not doing that well. Marshal Law would have been a great success (when #1 came out 38 years ago it was complete sellout) but people got tired of waiting 6 months between issues and have, for the most part, given up on it. Get 'em out on time, fellas!! Another disappointment is Marvel Comics Presents. While not a "flop" per se, it is selling in much lower quantities than expected, even with Wolverine gracing the cover. We shudder to think what will happen when Wolvie stops being the feature story.

DC seems to be taking more of a "shotgun" approach to new comics, pumping them out left and right. This is a more daring approach, and has produced some of the most interesting new comics available (Hellblazer, The Prisoner, The Question, V for Vendetta), although they're selling only moderately well.

This approach has also produced some real losers. Outcasts, Sonic Disruptors, Tailgunner Jo, Haywire, Starman, Power of the Atom, etc., etc.

As far as good sellers are concerned, it's still JLI, Green Arrow, and the Batman books at the top of the DC sales list. The initial shipping delays have NOT affected sales on The Cult as a new or back issue. Batman 426 and 427 sold great, and show promise as back issue successes as well. The 2nd printing of The Killing Joke is not really selling all that well. It seems that collectors are willing to pay the few extra dollars for the first printing.

We've just learned that Action Comics Weekly will return to a monthly schedule and focus on Superman once again. GOOD!! The "Weekly" was an experimental failure, and we're glad to see it go.

The alternates seem to be, for the most part, in a bad way. The "Big Two" seem to be stealing their talent (Jim Starlin, Ron Lim, Bill Willingham, Tom Vincent) and pushing them out of the market with a flood of higher-priced product. And then there's the ultimate blasphemy: Crossroads and Total Eclipse. What's so "alternate" about these??

The only company really worth mentioning is Dark Horse. They are actually producing hot black and whites (!) such as Concrete and Aliens, as well as a successful anthology book (!!), namely Dark Horse Presents.

Howard Cheykin's "Black Kiss" from Vortex is hot, in more ways than one! In light of the Friendly Frank's situation, we strongly urge all retailers to sell this book only to legal adults and get POSITIVE proof of age. We suggest reading Comics Buyer's Guide for updates on this tragic case, and also for synopses of the case (for those of you unfamiliar with it).

BACK ISSUES - The comic market is so complicated that it is difficult to pick out a single trend. It is obvious to us, however, that today's back issue buyers have one thing in mind: VALUE. They want good comic values. Period. A good number of once-popular books have priced themselves out of most people's range of interest (FF #10-47, X-Men #95-135, e.g.). Double-digit prices seem to scare off most buyers at this time, probably because of the cost and volume of new issues.

1960's high-grade early issues of DC's such as JLA, Green Lantern, Metal Men, and even joke titles like Metamorpho are all the rage. One observation: we have several books such as Atom, Aquaman and even Metal Men in the 1-10 range here in the store, some of them for years. Why? They aren't Mint copies! The majority of these books are at least solid Fine copies by Mr. Overstreet's standards and are priced accordingly, yet here they sit. Apparently these books are only desirable in ultra-high grade. The same thing applies to some Marvels from this time as well (we have nice copies of X-Men ranging from 14-70 sitting here, as well as a beautiful VF- Fantastic Four 13 priced at $47). However, formerly dormant titles such as Captain America, Hulk and Thor have sprung to life, probably because most of these issues are priced in the under

$2.00 range. For Heaven's sake, the entire run of Thor is priced under $6!! Again, GOOD VALUES.

We don't know how it is elsewhere, but here Marvel back issues outsell DC by at least 4 to 1. The hottest back issue for Marvel as far as recent books go is definitely Longshot. All of the issues are an easy sell at 10-20% above guide, usually within 48 hours of offering them for sale. The Punisher mini- and regular series are all quick sellers at above guide prices as well. Overall, Daredevil, New Mutants, X-Factor, Spec. Spider-Man, Web of Spider-Man and Iron Man are all solid back issue sellers. Avengers and Amazing Spider-Man sell better still! In fact, Amazing may sell more back issues than X-Men. Ah, X-Men. As a new issue it can't be beat, and recent back issues move like lightning, but there's trouble in paradise. A lot of the back issues before, say, 170 have trouble moving at 70% of guide. Giant Size 1 and #94 still sell at their current prices but 95-108, for instance, just sit. These books are just too expensive. The Classic X-Men reprints aren't helping matters any. Mid-1970's Marvels are no rare and once you pass X-Men 141 the issues are available in large quantities. Hulk 180 and 181 and Amazing Spider-Man 129 make tracks! Early Punisher, Dazzler and Punisher appearances in Amazing seem to have cooled. The rest of the run sells out, so why not these? Reprints may be at fault again.

As far as DC goes, only back issues of JLI and recent Batman and Detective sell well. While common 1970's issues of Thor and Iron Man are flying out the door, the Superman, Wonder Woman, Action, Flash, JLA, and even Batman and Detective (except for Joker issues) from the same era are collecting dust like a Hoover Deluxe. By the way, "hot" JLI #1 doesn't move at all for $9.00, and Flash #1 just sits at $5. The new Superman is completely dead. Well, as they say, "the Byrne giveth and the Byrne taketh away." What's not for DC are the prestige format books. Dark Knight went to sleep for a while but now it's taking off, and bringing The Cult and GA: Longbow with it.

We are very interested in any DOCUMENTED sales information regarding Watchmen collectibles. We feel that some of these should be listed with Watchmen in the bulletins and updates in order to help stabilize prices. We have sent Jon Warren as complete a list of related collectibles as we could compile, but could only supply retail prices. Mr. Warren has told us that any information any of you out there could supply him would be greatly appreciated. *[Editor's Note: That's right. - JW]*

As for the independents, the less said the better. It's depressing just to think about it. Is there anyone out there who isn't stuck with piles of Manga books? Most alternates are proving unsaleable as back issues, but notable exceptions are Concrete, Aliens, and Flaming Carrot. Black Kiss #1 (1st) is red hot at double guide. Nexus is showing some activity. The Cerebus reprints have destroyed back issue sales on that title. Issues before 25 won't sell for 80% of guide. #51, however, sells just fine, because it wasn't reprinted.

What's the prognosis for the near future? Well, the market seems to be pretty stable, although we'd like to see a little more back issue activity. Perhaps the publishers will weed out some of the new issue garbage, freeing up some back issue dollars. Hopefully, cover prices will stay stable for a little while, and since summer is over, we should see fewer new titles. These factors could help back issue sales as well. You retailers may also want to put some of your inexpensive "dead" back issues into 3 for $1.00 boxes. This helps us move some hard-to-move books, and in some cases helps to sell related back issues at regular prices. If we sound despondent, we don't mean to. We feel that the market is healthy, and business is better than ever. We do, however, understand the importance of moving stock, and are willing to sell at reduced prices to keep ourselves and collectors happy, which keeps the marketplace healthy.

So until Devil Dinosaur is the best selling back issue, MAKE OURS OVERSTREET!!!

Alan and Marsha Giroux
All About Books & Comics
Phoenix, Arizona

Since the Overstreet Price Update is in many ways an open forum for retailers to discuss all the elements that make up the comic market, we would like to express our feelings on the general state of the Phoenix economy.

While much of the rest of the country has laid dormant or moved moderately ahead in the last eight years, Phoenix surged ahead as one of the top growth areas in all aspects. Construction, population, business, you name it, it boomed! But the level of growth moved perhaps a little too quickly, and in the last year a deepening recession has set in. The influx of population moving into town has dwindled considerably with people moving on to greener and higher paying pastures. The result has been the loss of major industry (IBM shutting down a plant to hospitals closing their doors), and an over built city of empty shopping centers and over 60,000 homes for sale. The bankruptcy rate for Phoenix alone jumped up 22% in the last year!

The effects of the recession have trickled into our own "growing" industry. Three direct comic book outlets in the valley, one of them a major retailer have gone out of business in the last month. Not all the closings are directly related to the economy but it all boils down to vying for a somewhat limited customer base and carrying an ever increasing amount of product at an ever increasing cost. It is simply a case of "economic Darwinism"; the strongest will survive. If it appears as if their is any self gratification in this report, there isn't. For we feel that competition keeps that aggressive edge that every business person needs. Competition keeps you on your toes. In short competition breeds better business. And the closing of comic outlets doesn't help our industry.

We can report of course that because of the closings our new comic sales have climbed drastically, but this scale of growth is awkwardly tilted because the customer base is not really expanding, just consolidating. And it is always odd how most comic buyers will read so many of the same good sellers. With an influx of these new customers the usually good sellers are selling that much better. Daredevil, Avengers, Captain America, Iron Man and all the Mutant and Spidey books from Marvel have increased by more than 50%! The more eclectic items like Akira and the Shadowline books from Marvel increased a much smaller percentage even with the addition of 80 new subscription customers.

The above information is basically a carbon copy for DC. The standard DC movers like Flash, Justice League International, Wonder Woman and Superman took a big jump in sales in the last month. What has jumped far ahead of the pack is Batman and Batman related back issues. The "Death in the Family" saga is selling to astounding proportions along with second printings of The Killing Joke. Collectors are scarfing up originals of Year One and Year Two, with prices ranging between $4.00 and $7.50 on each book. Back issues on Batman numbers before 200 are impossible to keep in stock. One customer was willing to trade us mint copies of X-men Giant Size #1, X-men #94 and a Fine copy of Avengers #1 for $60.00 in back issues Batmans. We almost hesitated because Bat back issues far outsell sales on the two just mentioned. We relented because it was a deal far too good to pass up.

Surprisingly enough DC's more esoteric items like Hellblazer and The Question climbed much higher percentage wise with the new customer additions than did Marvels more adult titles.

A definite success through and through was Marvel's Nick Fury Vs. S.H.I.E.L.D. Some retailers in the last bulletin reported sales slowing on issues 3-5 but we haven't found this to be the case at all. Perspective prices: #1 hovering at the $18.00 mark, #2 at $8.00, #3 at $6.00 and #'s 4 and 5 selling daily off the stands at cover price.

Speaking of successes, Marvel's Evolutionary War saga was a blow-out seller. Customers reported the storyline

was excellent and the packaging looked great. Well done Marvel.

DC should also be congratulated on the promotion of Batman: The Cult. It is a gorgeous book and a fantastic seller. With the 50th anniversary coming up and the Batman movie slated for summer of '89 release more Bat books with the quality of The Killing Joke and The Cult would do well.

An unexpected surprise is the recent skyrocketing of sales on Starman. We just had writer/creator Roger Stern at one of our stores. The Starman character resides in Phoenix and the local media picked up on it. As a result Starman is selling fantastically. We believe this is a regional phenomenon, but felt we should mention it.

On to Independents. Even before the onslaught of new customers searching us out, titles like Aliens, Terminator, Real Ghostbusters, Godzilla and Fright Night were selling to levels like the pre b&w bust days. Publishers Now and Dark Horse seem to have discovered a previously untapped segment of the buying public who are clamoring for comics based on popular or cultish films. Sales on these titles outsell a number of medium sellers like Tallgunner Jo, Wolfpack and Speedball from DC and Marvel.

There are numerous independents (b&w and color alike) with steady followings that provide good consistent sales. Badger, Nexus, Scout, Black Kiss, Warlock 5, TMNT, Cerebus and The Trouble With Girls brings in a crowd that normally wouldn't buy mainstream Marvels and DC's. The new Jademan titles are selling fairly well (but not to levels expected). The new Viz comics line has a very professional look and we expect it to outsell Jademan's titles.

When they are published (sarcasm intended) Neal Adam's Continuity line sells well. Gladstone titles consistently sell well too.

The last major topic to discuss in this report is the opinion that retailers are unreasonable and unwavering in the asking price of their "key" golden and silver age books. In the defense of retailers not budging on prices, we have to say that over the last few years it has become increasingly more difficult to buy comic collections at reasonable prices. Many collectors expect high prices even on poor selling books. This often happens. If a retailer wants to purchase the mint run of Spider-Man #'s 50 to 100 he has to also pay top dollar for the run of Marvel Team-Up that the collector is selling with it. The point is this; the crucial items of a given collection may have to be marked at a premium price to cover the cost of the entire collection. As a result, in order to have the selection the retailer can't always go down on his prices. If you want key back stock for your customers you often must buy the fodder that comes with it. *[Editor's Note: Alas, this is true... - JW]*

People don't realize that professional retailers running professional shops have real expenses (just as do grocery stores and department stores) such as rent, wages, utilities, advertising, property and sign taxes, and merchandise. A store is not a flea market or garage sale. When a customer buys a gallon of milk at the grocery store marked $1.89 he doesn't go up to the store manager and say "I'll give you $1.50 for this". This doesn't mean that we aren't willing to give good deals to big buyers and our good customers. We do that all the time. We often discount items if we've had them a long time. We resent the attitude of some who think that because of the type of merchandise we carry we automatically have to bargain on everything. *[Editor's Note: I agree, but if you think comic store owners have it bad, you ought to here ball card stores complain about the kid who tries to dicker you down on a 25 cent card! - JW]* Your point, Jon, on conventions is a good one. Conventions are the appropriate places to do that bargaining for customers and for retailers to move stock. The cost of working a convention is not the same as a store. It really depends on who you're dealing with. At this past summers San Diego con, we found retailers willing to negotiate (within reason) on key early books.

Our basic philosophy is to run a retail shop in a positive business-like atmosphere in which the customer gets quality service and selection.

Steve Richter & Bart Bush
PLANET COMICS & SF
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The sales trends of early summer have continued through August and into September. Marvel and DC continue to dominate the shelves with little opposition from the independents, who all seem to be suffering to some degree. While each of the major independents have popular series (i.e. Aliens, Flagg!, Grendel, Total Eclipse, Terminator), erratic publishing schedules and a generally low investment potential have kept the independents a distant third to the 'Big Two.' Still, almost every major company has some good books, and titles of interest will continue to come from each of the publishers in the future.

DOING WELL: The major Marvels continue to sell well, with Mutant books and Punisher titles leading the rest. The Shadowline series is a moderate success, selling at higher levels than most Epic titles to date. Also surprising is the success of the new Star line, Alf, Bullwinkle, and Count Duckula. Look for Byrne's West Coast Avengers, Havok & Wolverine, She-Hulk, and Moon Knight to join the Punisher at the top of Marvel's list.

DC has its share of popular titles, including JLI, Green Arrow, and their other major characters. The success of V for Vendetta, the Cult, and other direct-only titles, while not surprising, is on an even higher level than expected. Overall, DC continues to produce enjoyable, steady-selling series. Invasion, the Batman and Joker hardcovers, Mister Miracle, Doctor Fate, the Prisoner, and possibly Black Orchid will also do well and should be desirable books.

As we said earlier, each of the major independents have at least one good seller, with Aliens and Black Kiss being the clear leaders. Aliens sold at 75% of X-Men levels for us, and we would have sold more if we could have gotten them. Black Kiss would sell even better than it is if we could actively promote it. Even as such it's on a level with Alpha Flight and Power Pack for us. Other popular independents include Concrete, Ghostbusters, Terminator, Love & Rockets, Cyclops, and of course Cerebus, Elfquest, Flaming Carrot, and the Turtles, among others. Looking ahead, Appleseed, A-1, Grey, Alan Moore's The Mandelbrot Set, Predators, and the new Matrix titles show promise.

MODERATE: For Marvel, Groo, Iron Man, Captain America, and the other mid-level books continue to sell steadily with Semper Fi, Light & Darkness War, Dr. Strange, and Marshall Law showing activity.

DC has a number of mid-level books, including Doc Savage, Shadow, Swamp Thing, and many of their newer books, including Dragonlance, Action Weekly (which is making us more money even at its lower level due to increased frequency), and Power of the Atom. Most DC titles that have been announced for the next few months will probably fall into the moderate category.

While at a lower sales level than that of Marvel and DC, the independents moderate books are numerous, with most of the output of First, Comico, Dark Horse, and Eclipse selling at medium levels. Notable examples include Trouble With Girls, Dinosaurs For Hire, Kings In Disguise, and Usagi Yojimbo.

SELLING POORLY - While almost everything Marvel touches turns to gold, there are at least several new books from the 'House of Ideas' that are not catching on. Speedball, Wolfpack, and many of their recent trade paperbacks and graphic novels (The Thing, Power Pack, Someplace Strange) were poorly received. In general, though, Marvel's hit-to-miss ratio is the highest of any publisher, and collectors are usually assured of an entertaining, commercial, and well-produced comic from

them.

DC has not been as lucky as Marvel in this department, with a number of their newer books selling in the medium to low range. Haywire, Animal Man, Warlord, and Doom Patrol are examples of DC's numerous poor sellers. DC seems to be somewhat content, however, to overcome their second place position by publishing many more comics than Marvel, particularly direct-only titles, which can be profitable even with low print runs.

The slow moving independents, while great in number, are not quite as noticeable for us because we simply order only enough to fill our subscriptions with only a few, if any, left for the shelves. Blood of Dracula, Samurai, and Albedo, as well as almost the entire output of companies like Eternity, Blackthorne, Hero, and the various vanity publishers comprise approximately 5% of our monthly new comic orders, and are not likely to ever command much collector interest.

TRADE PAPERBACKS: The good Marvel (Wolverine, X-Men, Elektra), DC (Dark Knight, Watchmen, Camelot 3000), and other (Read Yourself Raw, Pogo, Love & Rockets) trade paperbacks continue to sell very well for us. Watchmen, for instance, still averages about a copy sold every week. Even with the format overkill, with every publisher still rushing to release as many trades as possible, our customers are willing to buy those of quality. With Christmas coming, we expect to provide even more fans with copies not only for themselves, but for gift-giving as well. Stores which are not offering a wide selection of these popular titles are doing not only themselves, but their customers, a great disservice.

RECENT BACK ISSUES: The mainstream Marvel titles, particularly Spider-man, Punisher, Silver Surfer, and the X-Men dominate our recent back issue sales. The Shadowline series, She-Hulk, and the West Coast Avengers are also doing well. In general, affordable super-hero back issues do the best. Groo still does well, but like everyone else we've had a sharp decline in GI Joe and New Universe sales. For DC, Green Arrow, JLI, Killing Joke (at $8.50), and all Batman books do well. Warlord, Doom Patrol, Titans, and most mini-series are dead. Warlock Five, Concrete, Flaming Carrot, Terminator, and Ghostbusters are our best selling independent back issues. Cerebus has come to a crawl as fans wait for the forthcoming reprint issues. Many vanity press titles and would-be Marvels sit unsold in the quarter boxes. Some current prices are listed below.

Marshal Law #1 - $5.00; Terminator #1 - $3.50; Alf #1 - $8.00; Ghostbusters #1 - $4.00; Cult #1 - $5.00; Green Arrow (new) #1 - $7.00; Aliens #1 - $6.00; V For Vendetta #1 - $3.50.

The Golden-age and Silver-age markets are starting to take on a new look. Collecting and investing has turned mainly to the Silver-age period comics from 1956-1968. The collectors' familiarity with the characters, along with the affordable price range and the general availability of most titles are putting these comics more in demand. Besides DC and Marvel titles, collectors are seeking Dell, Tower, ACG, Charlton, Harvey and Archie titles from this time period.

The Golden-age market is different. Affordable Golden Age is diminishing. Collectors' looking for a good run of a golden age title may find that unless he wants it in high-grade or restored high-grade the availability of any such title run will be slim. Demand for golden-age remains steady, but overall the prices are becoming too high for general fan consumption. My projection of the leveling-out of prices is a cycle in the marketplace that is inevitable. We are not too familiar with such trends as golden-age has been rising during all of the 1980's. Hopefully this plateau will lead to the placing of comic collections back into the marketplace for the next generation of collectors to explore them. Naturally, some titles will continue to increase in value but many are realisticly overpriced based on demand at current price levels. Much adjusting is still to come over the next few years, and within the new trends that develop we should see the emergence of a new, stronger collecting market.

Greg Black
Greg's Comix
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The Marvel DC glut is here and it is taking it's toll. Customers are having to drop some titles in order to continue to collect their favorites. The independent comics are not suffering from the glut as much as the sales on the new DC comics DC sales have dropped dramatically, while the quality independents have had only a moderate drop in new issue sales. The reason is that most customers who are willing to drop a particular independent have already done so. Marvel titles that are really suffering are the West Coast Avengers and Fantastic Four, but this is probably due more to the poor writing than to the glut.

The market for back issues is slow, also due to the Marvel-DC glut. Customers are complaining that they have little or no money left after buying the new comics out. This is a continuing trend that has been evident for the last 4 years. My back issue sales are less than a third of what they were 3 summers ago. There is still a profit to be made in back issues, but it is less each year.

Back issue demand is incredibly hot for anything with Punisher or Wolverine in it. First appearances of these characters sell easily for 10% to 20% above guide. X-Men have always been hot, but they are even more so now than ever before. Punisher appearances are still red-hot, especially the magazine appearances (great sellers at $30 each). I have noticed that the traditionally slower moving titles like Thor, Hulk, and Captain America are picking up. Iron Man has become one of the best sellers at conventions. Has anyone else noticed how hot Daredevil's from the last year are? Most of the dealers I know are either completely sold out or close to it. Daredevil has been consistently well written, and the excellent artwork by John Romita Jr. is very popular. I think that Silver age Daredevil's would be excellent items for investment, since they are relatively cheap now and therefore have more growth potential than the higher priced silver age Marvels.

The silver age DC's continue to maintain a lot of interest. Key issues of (either Marvel or DC) have always been the most sought after items in the back issue market, however this trend has intensified over the last year. Most key issues will bring 20% to 30% over guide for mint issues, and as much as 40% to 50% for good issues. Most dealers are not willing to negotiate price on these items because they know they will sell. Recent DC's of interest are The Killing Joke and The Cult. Both of these sell for $10 in Houston, and $6 to $8 everywhere else.

There is little change in the color independents. The popular titles here are Badger, Nexus, and Scout. There is still some increased interest in Jon Sable, probably due more to the trade paperback sales than the now defunct TV show.

The black and white titles never were as dead here in Texas as I heard about from other parts of the nation. The bad B&W's are dead as can be, but there is still a lot of interest in the quality B&W titles. Titles that continue to sell very well as back issues include Warlock 5, Concrete, Heroes, Cerebus, Mangazine, Dark Horse Presents, and Deadworld. Moderate selling titles include Boris the Bear, Ex Mutants, and most Aircel titles. Formerly "hot" titles that are now totally dead include Trollords (one of my favorites), Fish Police, and Love and Rockets. There are three brand new hot B&W titles that I can see: Terminator, Aliens, and Chaykin's Black Kiss. Black Kiss is selling very well for $5.

As you can guess, Ninja High School is a very popular book and is always one of my best sellers. I sell #1 for $8, #2 for $6, and #3 for $6. Last weekend in Dallas, I sold three #1's, two #2's, and Four #3's. Another little recognized book

that brings a lot is Heroes. I have been selling Heroes #1 for $20 to $25 each since about two months after it came out. I currently sell Heroes #1 for $25, and Heroes #2 at $10, and #3 for $4 each. The limited edition poster copy of Heroes sells for $125. I have sold two of these this year (I can get verification if necessary).

Brian Hicks & Art Clem
Collector's Choice
Cleveland/Knoxville, Tennessee

Established Marvel titles continue to grow more popular, while all DC titles seem to be suffering a little bit, that's the latest news.

While summer sales were summer sales, this year didn't produce all of the blockbusters that were promised. It seems that long gone is the day when the comic buyer bought something just because _____ (you fill in the blank) published it. Now, more than ever before, comic book publishers are having to be very particular as to the quality of a book's appearance, its story content, and its art. It seems that the average comic reader is getting more picky. And in the long run, that's going to help separate the good from the exceptionally bad in our market.

MARVEL: Marvel is on a roll. That's the best way to put it. By turning their attention more to improving the quality of their aged characters, as opposed to spending their time promoting some rancid dog like Speedball, Marvel has improved the sales of many of their long-running titles. Spider-Man, Hulk, Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, Daredevil, and the Avengers have all had increases in sales, in some cases nearly 100 percent. The idea of re-defining established characters is not original, remember DC did it, and is still doing it to a lesser extent, but it works. Nobody can say that Marvel is copying DC by promoting their old-time characters, all they can say is that they got smart. And what, you may ask, is this doing to "other" Marvel titles? Why, killing them, of course. Semper Fi, G.I. Joe, and Nam all need to be sent home in body bags. The Transformers have become an endless commercial. The New Universe titles are up and down, as made clear by Marvel's press releases: "They're cancelled. No, wait, they're not. Oh, what the heck, they're cancelled." Are they flipping a coin? Of the newer series, Wolverine and Excalibur have broken records for sales in our stores and on our mail order service. A big surprise was that Punisher's War Journal did not follow. Punisher's War Journal sold great, but not as great as we expected. Has Marvel finally saturated the market for Punisher? Look for a cooling trend on this character. Also, it's getting harder and harder to call the market on the Nick Fury vs. SHIELD mini series, due to lack of copies. We can't find out what people are willing to pay, because we can't get copies, and from what we've seen and heard, neither can anyone else.
Marvel Silver Age is still selling like crazy, and the demand is probably far from being met. We look for price increases in the old Hulks, Captain Americas, Daredevils, Spider-Mans, Iron Mans, Silver Surfers, and Avengers. This does not exclude the others, these are just the most prominent at this time.

DC: Like any true champion does, DC is having a bit of a slump. Not a bad one, mind you, but a slump just the same. Cosmic Odyssey has not done very well, and many of the other summer projects are doing likewise. Sales are slowing on some of last year's hottest titles. Flash and Superman have dropped notably and Justice League, while still selling good, is not up to its former par. Whatever the reason for these decreases in sales, it is likely that it is only temporary. DC is far from being down for the count. On the positive side, Batman: The Cult is looking better every issue. Question sales are good, and the Batman four part "Death in the Family" storyline has more than doubled Batman sales. V For Vendetta has got to be one of the sleeper hits of the summer, with people just beginning to realize that they have missed something that is truly worth reading. The New Titans (is that going to be their title from now on?) is looking good with the return of Wolfman and Perez, and with Action Comics Weekly going back to monthly circulation, with only Superman stories by Perez, it's possible that maybe even that dog isn't down for the count. Green Arrow is still selling strong, and with its popularity being as it is, we thought it might be an appropriate time to mention that most recently Green Arrow appeared as a back-up in every issue of Detective from #521 up to #567. That might spark some interest with hard-core GA fans. Of course, if they are real hard-core GA fans, they already knew.

As far as DC Silver Age is concerned, its in a market with Marvel. Right now the mentality seems to be "if it exists, buy it." It seems that a collector cannot go wrong buying these old comics right now. Demand for Silver Age has reached an all-time high and with DC, in particular Batman, Detective, and Adventure, it looks like the sky's the limit.

INDEPENDENTS: The Independents' market is going through a real struggle right now. Many companies are finding it hard to compete with even "bad" quality Marvels and DC's. One item we found interesting was the Dark Horse Presents Annual. It was done in the exact same format as all the Marvel Annuals and Action #600. The difference? The quality on the Dark Horse Presents put them all to shame. That would be a surprise if Dark Horse weren't already out-distancing everyone's expectations. Dark Horse has shown itself as a company to be reckoned with, with hits such as the American, Roachmill, Concrete, Dark Horse Presents, Trekker, the acquisition of Flaming Carrot Comics, and the smash hit of summer '88, Aliens. While Dark Horse is clearly the best of the black and whites, Comico is holding up the color end of the independents market. Comico has been doing some acquiring recently, also. Trollords, one of the big hits of the "black & white" summer of '86, has just jumped ship to Comico, and Fish Police, another hit of '86, did the same not too long ago. With the market getting tougher and tougher to compete in, moving to larger companies is the only way for these little titles to survive. Besides Comico and Dark Horse, most of the other independent companies are seeing their sales decrease a little. It seems that most independent companies are slowing down on new products and focusing the energies on keeping their strong sellers alive. As old independents go, Pacific Grocs are still hot. Low print runs on some of the later issues of that title make finding copies a bit of a challenge. Also, Pacific's Starslayer is selling good. People are buying it for the Groc back-up, the Rocketeer back-up, and the Grimjack back-up. Hasn't anyone read Starslayer for Starslayer? And while the market is narrow, it's not hard to sell old black and white Grendels. A book that all comic readers should look for is The Tick #1, from New England Comics. What at first seemed to be just another black and white, judging from previews, has turned out to be one of the best books of the summer. If The Tick stays on a steady schedule, and future issues match #1, we may be seeing another giant emerge in the field. A last note on independents is: watch for Flare by Hero Comics. Sales are strong on this book, and it may just be a big boost for Hero Comics.

In closing, let us re-hash what we've already said. The trend now is in quality new books and classic old books. The market is definitely changing and we would bet anyone that dealers are selling some strange things out of their back issue boxes. Probably some things they didn't even know they still had. With people realizing that new books are not going to have the constant value that older ones do, maybe the market will slip into a more predictable, if not standardized track. That's not to say we don't want any surprises. Surprise hits are half the fun, aren't they?

John Chruscinski
Rob Prince
Tropic Comics

Old books in any shape are selling immediately. Silver age Marvels and DC's cannot be bought fast enough to keep any kind of stock going. The past few years they might have sat around for a few weeks, but now it seems there are three people waiting for every good book before it even comes in. The front runners are old Spideys (1-10), F.F's and Batmans. New Comics are so-so. Again, Spidey's (by McFarlane) and Batman are in front, plus Nick Fury vs. SHIELD and Black Kiss (save us oh save us). The market seems to be pacing itself, not taking such wild swings as before. I feel that it's holding its breath, just waiting to cut loose. Keep your eyes open around Nov.-Dec.-Jan., those months are always good, but this year will be something special.

Some documented sales: My Greatest Adv. 80 VF/VF+ $120.00; Amazing Spider-Man 1 G+ $250.00; F.F. 1 G+ $320.00; T.O.S. 39 F+/VF $400.00; Spidey 129 NM/M $65.00; J.L.I. 3 (2nd cover) $80.00; Nick Fury vs. SHIELD 1 $20.00; Marvel Preview 2 (Punisher NM/M) $40.00; Marvel Super Action (Punisher NM/M) $28.00.

TOM MATTEVI
COMICS CARDS AND COLLECTABLES
CANTON, OHIO

The fall season usually means decreasing sales in the comic retail business; this year may prove to be an exception to that rule. DC's "Cosmic Odyssey" and Marvel's "Inferno" have received a lot of hype from their respective companies and interest in them seems to be intense. Most consumers seem to have forgotten last years disappointing "Fall of the Mutants" and are willing to try again.

Two independent companies are beginning to make their marks. NOW COMICS started slowly but is coming up strong with books based on movies and TV shows. None of the books sell large volumes yet, but every month more of my customers ask for and buy their books. The real story though seems to be a new company, at least new to the U.S., JADEMAN COMICS. Jademan is the largest comic book producer in China and has now set their sights on America. The invasion has begun with four titles. All four books are 64 full color pages of which only two are advertisement, and those two are in-house ads. What would you pay for this? But wait there's more. The stories, although not great are quite good and the art is quite dynamic once you get used to it. Now what would you be willing to pay for it? Hold on, there's still more—every issue has some sort of insert—one had a poster, another a sticker, yet another a calendar. Now what would you pay? $3.50, $3.00, $2.50, maybe, if it were from Marvel or DC, but from Jademan you get 64 full color pages, virtually no ads, plus a free insert for only $1.50. My apologies to K-tel for butchering their rap, but it just seemed to fit. Seriously, Jademan is producing a high quality low priced product which is being accepted by the American comic book fans quickly. We've all seen other industries overrun by foreign competition but I never thought comics would be threatened, I hope the "Big Two" and the "small ones" take note of this new company and the challenge they present. Meanwhile, here is how other things look from my store.

NEW COMICS - DC sales remain consistently higher than years past lead by "Justice League", Power of the Atom", and "Batman the Cult". The $3.50 price tag on "The Cult" and "Cosmic Odyssey" have not effected the sales of these books. Although the third issue of "The Cult" sold slightly slower than the previous ones, it still sold out. On the down side at DC, "Cops" a toy tie-in that didn't quite aim for a specific audience and thus has found none. "Action Weekly" continues its downward spiral, the two biggest complaints about the book being the price and the low page allotment for "Superman". "Green Arrow" has suddenly and rather unexplainably slowed in sales, the stories and art are still of the highest quality but the sales took a dive anyway. The worst new book from DC, and the sales prove it, has got to be "The New Guardians" a really dreadful book spun off from an equally dreadful mini-series, put us out of our misery and cancel this one. Other items of note from DC: "Starman" a very interesting book, initially looked like a "Captain Atom" clone but quickly developed a lighter more enjoyable tack. Sales aren't spectacular, but this one could heat up. "V for Vendetta" is another gem from DC. Allan Moore wrote it; what else needs to be said? "Animal Man" is selling quite well and has caused renewed interest in previous appearances, especially those in "Strange Adventures". Similarly, "Hawk and Dove" in its mini-series has caused renewed interest in the old stories of the same name, as well as the first appearance in "Showcase" #75.

MARVEL sales are still hot. They now carry a substantially higher portion of the market than six to eight months ago, but not as massive as years past. "Excalibur is red hot. It has a lot of action, yet there is still a good feeling to the book. Comics in general, Marvels in particular, tend to be rather depressing, not this one. It proves that comics can be fun without being funny. "X" titles all sell well and sales of the flagship mutant title, "X-men" took off as soon as it went back on a monthly schedule. "Punisher" is still hot, and "...War Journal" is even selling to non-Punisher fans (yes there are a few out there). "Daredevil" has gotten hot (especially issues featuring "Typhoid Mary"), "Captain America", "Nick Fury", and "Incredible Hulk" are still hot, "Iron Man" has cooled off but is still good reading. The downside? - the "Shadow line series". Didn't Marvel learn anything from the "New Universe"? "G I Joe", "The Nam", and "Marvel Comics Presents" are stone cold. "New Universe" - dead just waiting for someone to claim the body. "New Mutants" - sales are dropping, needs better art before trend is irreversible. Other books of note from Marvel: "Power Pack" sales are poor but still a good book. "Sub-Mariner" the Thomas's doing what they do best, chronicling the life of a character who has been around awhile. No one does it better. Buckler/McLeod art looks great, not a top seller but something that can be appreciated by any "Subby" fan and a few who aren't fans. "Speedball" - a great wave of nostalgia for those of us who grew up on Mr. Ditko's Spider-man. Unfortunately most of todays comic consumers cannot appreciate the art and writing of this book, Pity!

INDEPENDENTS: "Aliens", "Terminator", "Fright Night", and "Jademan Comics" are Hot. Gladstone "Duck titles", "Teen Turtles", "Elfquest", "Cerebus", and "Viet Nam Journal" are still consistent sellers. "Real Ghostbusters" has shaped up to be a hit, why not, it is a good comic adaption of a well done cartoon based on a classic movie. Another TV based comic, "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." has also begun to establish a respectably sized readership. The book's art and stories capture the feel as well as the likeness of the TV show. The book, like many independently produced books, doesn't seem to keep to any set schedule but unlike most the publishers makes no pretense that they will, in the fine print at the bottom of the inside front cover they state: "Published as often as possible", I like that.

HOT: Excalibur, Captain America, Batman, V for Vendetta, Aliens, Daredevil, Incredible Hulk, Terminator
WARM: X-men, Spider-man, Justice League, Swamp Thing
COLD: New Universe (all titles), G.I. Joe, New Guardians, Transformers, The Nam, Solo Avengers, Cops

BACK ISSUES - DC: "Eighty Page Giants" and early DC Annuals are in high demand. "Batman" and "Superman" titles from

the 1950's and 1960's are also still selling as soon as they are stocked. "Flash" sales have begun to pick up but interest is still unspectacular. "Dark Knight" and "Watchman continue to interest many non-collectors in some cases leading them to the discovery that comics are more than just "kiddie fare".

MARVEL: There is a renewed interest in Marvel reprint titles. "Marvel's Greatest Comics", "Fantasy Masterpieces", "Marvel Triple Action", and of course "Marvel Tales" especially the early issues which were 64 pages, have been selling well, since most collectors can't afford originals they feel the reprints are a bargain. "X-men", "X-Factor", "Classic X-men", and "Spider-man" titles continue to sell well and are being joined by "Iron Man", "Alpha Flight", "Incredible Hulk", and "Punisher". Still in a major slump are the following titles: "G.I. Joe", "Marvel Team-Up", "Marvel Two-In-One", "Thor", and just about any "Graphic Novel. "Conan" sales which has mysteriously picked up have not so mysteriously dropped back off, but this time around I can explain the increased sales in a usually non-productive title, "Doctor Who", a local PBS station has begun rerunning them.

GENERAL: Sales of "Classics Illustrated" always seem to increase when school is in session, I wonder if there might be a connection. Dell and Gold Key TV/Movie comics, especially those with photo covers, are beginning to sell at higher prices, "Four Color" comics are also starting to move. As usual sales of "Cerebus", "Turtles" "Elfquest", and "Boris the Bear" continue as prices escalate.

In summation, perhaps comic book collecting has finally surpassed the seasonal trends which have seemed to dictate the manner in which publishers released their books for so many years. Perhaps we who read comics have shown those who produce them that we will buy well written, well drawn, reasonably priced stories any time of the year. And perhaps this is the year I'll see the Great Pumpkin.

CURT COLLINS
STARSTORE/MEMPHIS COMICS AND RECORDS
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In the South, comic collecting is going strong. With the mainstream public being more aware of comics, there are new collectors of all ages entering the marketplace. Along with comics' new respectability comes a more positive climate for collecting. There is less of a turnover in collectors as comics fans feel better about their hobby and stick to it (or come back to it) instead of abandoning what was once seen as an "eccentric" hobby. Many new collectors are starting with high profile comics like Batman or Watchmen and then experimenting with other series. The Batman movie, good or bad, will serve as an excellent advertisement for the comics with all the media attention and promotion. The significance of the Hugo award for Watchmen should not be overlooked. Comics are being noticed and accepted by the public at large. The future looks very bright for our hobby.

Established collectors are moving to higher quality, both of story and art and of condition of their books. It is becoming increasingly difficult to locate older books in very fine or better condition. Most quality older books are in the hands of experienced collectors that rarely offer them for sale. This makes these books costlier to obtain for retailers and of course for collectors. Silver age and older books that are offered for sale are usually in the mid grades. Prices on high grade books will climb and as an investment the surest to appreciate. Collectors should be warned that since this is a major market condition that it will take some time to accurately be reflected in the hobby's price guides. Prices for quality older books will often be higher than guide until data can be collected.

Some of the hottest comics are the result of them being by some of the hottest creators. Alan Moore, Peter David, Frank Miller and Mike Baron are the writers that are the hottest. Todd McFarlane, Dave Stevens, Arthur Adams, Mike Grell, Bob Burden, Alan Davis, and Berni Wrightson are the artists that many people are collecting works of The collectors of artists and writers have voiced the opinion that it is more satisfying to collect the works of a creator that you like than to collect a series that occasionally has stories you like. It is more difficult to collect Superstars rather than series, but many sophisticated collectors are finding the research and the hunt well worth the effort.

In 1988-89 on television we have Superboy, Marvel Action Universe, The Teenage Mutant Ninja, Turtles, and the Superman animated series on CBS. On the motion picture screen we have Batman (supposedly in time for the 50th anniversary) the Punisher, Spider-man and possibly another Superman movie in the works. The world is discovering comics. Some newspapers say "comics grow up", but possibly it's the world that has done the growing up.

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119 N. 85th 784-7300
Seattle, Washington 98103

The hottest back issue market for me here in Seattle continues to be silver age and early silver/late golden age comics in Fine or better condition. When this trend started to flourish two or three years ago it was confined primarily to key DC superhero books. The base of this demand has gradually and steadily broadened to include virtually every genre and publisher (though DC mainstream superhero books of the '50's and '60's still lead the way).

In addition to heated demand for top condition DC superhero titles - Batman, Superman, Action, Detective, Adventure, Atom, Hawkman, Showcase, etc. - here are some other trends I've observed:

1. DC Non-superhero books. All the 10 cent and 12 cent DC's are sought-after in VF or better, it seems. A recent collection of FN-MINT Mystery in Space sold briskly at guide. Likewise 50's DC war books, if they are NM/M, move easily at guide or over. A mint run of House of Mystery's from the 60's, many of which guide at only 60 cents, sold easily in the $1.50 - $2.00 range. Ten-cent issues of Tales of the Unexpected are very hard to come by in Fine or better, it seems.

2. Silver Age Marvels. These have been quite slow for me in all but the nicest condition, however, many titles are showing an upswing. Early Fantastic Four, Avengers and especially Amazing Spider-Man are moving well in Fine or better. Silver Surfer back issues from the original run are selling very well. Issues 11 thru 18 seem to be underpriced in the Guide; they sell at $5 or $6 for me, if mint. Even Conan is showing slightly renewed interest. "Cheap" 12 cents titles like Thor, Tales of Suspense, Tales to Astonish, etc., sell quickly at Guide in VF or better. Pre-hero Marvels continue to be very difficult to find in over Fine condition (Marvel chipping is a real problem on these) and sell very well in top condition.

3. Minor publishers of the 60's. I've noted a definite increase in demand for books by secondary publishers of the 60's. Gold Key led the way on this and many of their photo cover comics (Star Trek, Bonanza, Munsters, Untouchables) and TV cartoon comics (Astro Boy, Space Ghost, Jonny Quest) are among the most-asked-about comics. Now ACG and Charlton are beginning to follow suit, at a slower pace. Near-mint copies of many of these books are tough to find and many guide at $2 or less. Many collectors seem to feel that, even though the art quality is not up to their Marvel and DC contemporaries, these books are 20-plus years old so mint condition copies are collectible. For example, a mint collection of Charlton 12 cent Hot Rod Comics which I purchased a short time ago sold at a shocking pace at $1.50 to &2.50 each, although most guided between 60 cent and $1.50. I have generally adopted a policy of placing a price of at least $1 on any mint 12 center. It stands to reason that any twenty-year-old comic in mint should be worth as much as the average new issue on the stands. Since I've seen no price resistance at this level, collectors in this area, at least, seem to agree.

As regards more recent back issues, just a few random notes: GI Joe is now a very slow seller. New X-Men (94-up) have slowed dramatically except for key issues in strict mint condition, such as #'s 94, 108, 109 and 121. It has been my standard practice at local cons in the past year to sell all "new X-men" at 25% off Overstreet; where this once would have caused a stampede at my table, it now doesn't even begin to deplete my supply. Cerebus back issues (before #80) continue to be difficult for me to obtain. All Punisher and Flaming Carrot appearances remain hot, and the Longshot mini-series sells well. For some reason Nexus sells moderately as a new issue but back-issue demand is extremely high. Discontinued Marvel titles of the 70's and early 80's are the slowest of the slow - books like Marvel Team-up and Micronauts are virtually impossible to sell, even in the quarter box at cons.

A list of documented sales follows:

Silver Surfer 1 VF+ $50.00;
Silver Surfer 18 NM/M $6.00;
80-Page Giant 2 NM $20.00;
Showcase 14 VG+ $135.00;
House Of Mystery 165-170 NM $2.00;
Hot Rod Racers 8-13 NM $2.00;
Hot Rod Racers 1 NM $5.00;
Fantastic Four 6 VF $120.00;
Avengers 1 VG $100.00;

ROGER SMYTH
Funny Business
N.Y.C., N.Y.

Update: First, sorry I missed the last update, but UPS delayed delivery on my material. Second, I always prefer to date my updates (this is Sept. 16), since by the time you read this, who knows how the market may have shifted.

Overview: Well, the fall season is just starting, and it is difficult to get a clear picture of current conditions. One thing that is clear is that new issues are more popular than ever, across the board. For the past 2-3 weeks, we've been consistently selling out of about 30%-40% of the weekly shipment before they go on the racks, just from my subscribers. More and more people are taking new issue subscriptions, and purchasing more titles. So this is clearly a strong area here. There seems to be no particular preference. I've been selling out everything from Inferno issues, to Action, to American Flagg, so it will take time to sort this out. People are requesting Prisoner 1, (sold out), showing little interest (as yet) in Light and Darkness War, or Cosmic Odyssey, and asking continuously for Cult IV. C'mon DC, let's get on the ball. The real surprise in all of this, is Action, which was dying on the vine (or rack), and now is starting to pick up. The constant complaint is still "not enough Superman". I'm sure you've all noticed that DC has raised practically all of its titles to $1. Looking over the coming order forms, it seems there are 4 DC titles at 75 cents, and about 11 Marvel titles at 75 cents. It might seem that this is not simply a matter of a gradual increases ("cost of paper" nonsense), but rather I would venture to predict that over the next 3-5 years the whole new issue market will gradually shift. I wouldn't be surprised at all at a basic cover price of $3.50+, with all books square bound, within that time period. Perhaps an overstatement, but we are headed that way now.

Meanwhile the price increases affect the new issue market by cutting into the number of books (not total sales) sold. Marginal books will fade away, independents will suffer even further — could it be, by some stretch of the imagination that this is the object- if you can't flood the market with reprints (Brave and Bold—come on) then raise prices, increase schedules—same effect less money to be adventurous with. Clearly this is an across the board problem. Case in point: Lone Wolf and Cub. Once it went to $2.50 not only does it sell less, but demand for back issues decreases (obviously, less new readers). Right now, I'd be happy to sell a first print of #1, for $8.

All Batman's hold up extremely well - Death in the Family is a clear winner, Cult I and II sold out, III nearly, Swamp Thing with Batman, and with Superman sold out. With the movie in progress and the attending hype, I can only see one direction for a character whom I consider champion. Marvel: Excalibur remains in the "unknown" category, the second printings are lying around with no takers. Nam seems to be making a come back, and Semper Fi is a book to watch. See below for comment on Nick Fury.

HOT STUFF: Hottest issues of recent vintage, as I write this, are the Nick Fury square bounds. #1 goes easily at $15, #2 (if I had any) goes for $12, #3 between $8 and $10. #2 may be hardest one to find , grab it, now, if you need it. Real sleeper of the past few months is Legion #37 and #38 (death of Superboy). Throw out the guide, #37 at $15 and #38 at $12 flies out of the store (including to dealers) when I can get them. Check for changes this issue of the Update. Longshot is a very hot series with prices at 25% to 30% above guide. #6 is the most requested issue, and least available. Black Kiss is another surprise (and thanks for sealing it). Ask price for #1 is $10, #2 $6, #3 $5, #4 is sold out. Longshot seems to be a good bet for the long haul. Black Kiss may be more short lived with the 2nd and probably third printings on the way. Rising sales are noted on Elfquest, Groo, Alf - who knows?

BACK ISSUE STUFF: Early issues of major Marvel titles are being requested more often, i.e., 1-10 of X-Men, FF, SM, perhaps the start of a turnaround although the middle years (70's) are being ignored by and large. SM #129 raised the key issue here as it has for the last few reports, with a Fine copy selling quickly at $40, and I'd estimate a VF-NM at about $65. Silver Age DC's holding up as usual, JLA, Showcase, B+B, Green Lantern, Flash-and of curse Supes, and Batman. Recent back issues selling well, high demand for Batman Year I issues, Action 583 (Moore issue) sells quickly when I have it for $8.

COMMENT STUFF: Now, I'd like to raise an issue which more and more seems to be a problem, and a confusing one to all of us, dealer, collector and investor alike - the issue of grading. I'm not simply talking about the extremes, where a dealer I know grades the covers, and the pages separately, so meticulous is he, or the other extreme which you see so often at conventions, where a book with a large chunk out of the front cover is described as Pristine Mint, and scarce (I think it was an early issue of Blip). Rather, to give an example of the real issues involved, recently a young fellow came into the store, said he was a "dealer" from the mid-west, and wanted to sell some books. I was interested in an early All-Star, and asked his price.

He quoted me over $600. Well, I checked the Guide, and asked him how he came up with that figure. He responded that the book was NM. Now, the book had gloss, but it also had a large lower right corner crease, and much more seriously, an extensive spine split at the top, which had been crayoned in (I think by a three year old), to try to cover the split. Well, how do you grade this? Perhaps a VG being generous, G-Vg more strict. *[Editors note: Sounds more like a G to me - JW]* This brings the retail of the book down to $225-300. Being a teacher by profession, I went over the guide condition with the "dealer" (it may have been the first time he ever saw that section), and step-by-step, showed him why the book didn't qualify for the higher grades. I'm sure he left the store feeling he was being conned by a New York slicker. But, this really underscores a much more serious, prevalent problem. How do we grade, why, based on what? The guide, our experience, whether we are buying or selling a book. Allied to this issue of course, are other area's which provide a source of chronic problems, let along raising the spectre of ethics, such as selling repaired books without informing the purchaser of the repairs, or foisting off British Editions at full American guide, and not letting the customer know they are purchasing British (or Canadian in the case of earlier material), editions. In some cases ignorance is the culprit, but it's no excuse. The customer who is conned (and they find out quickly) looks upon all dealers as potential con artists. There are always a few bad apples, but we need to police, and educate ourselves. I worked for a dozen years in the stamp collecting profession, and we had external consultants who would authenticate a stamp, who would detect repairs, and who were generally considered to be true authorities. They neither bought nor sold stamps; what they did was provide a standard of excellence for the profession. We have nothing like this in our profession, (although we have many self-proclaimed "experts"). Until we, as concerned individuals, can face these problems we shall still have books without covers graded as: "Mint, no cover". In line with other update contributors, who also seem to favor the establishment of some type of expert committee, I strongly believe that no one connected with the profit sale of comic books should be involved with this area. This makes the task more difficult, but provides ethical security which we need as professionals. Unfortunately, this would eliminate several obvious candidates (as noted in the last update), but a conflict of interest keeps us in the field of dealers, and shop keepers, not professionals, who have spent much time and money, and obtained our knowledge from hard experience, reading, and sharing with others. Vested interests, whether dealer, editor, publisher, or artistic contributor, is a request for trouble. Next update I'd like to deal with the issue of Guide prices overall- too high, too low, or unrealistic.

[Editor's note: In as much as a number of Advisors have brought up the subject of some sort of grading and appraisal service over the last couple of Bulletins, I thought I might make a few observations as a footnote to Roger's market report. First of all, although the idea of a grading and authentification service sounds wonderful in theory, unfortunately for our hobby, it fades quickly when placed under the harsh light of reality. How many dealers are actually going to pay a fee to a service bereau in order to be told what they don't want to hear, i.e., that they have mis-graded the book and it is worth much less than they had thought? Second, as Roger points out, there would be cries of Conflict Of Interest from people who felt that no publisher or dealer or collector should have the power of say-so over the service. Also, there is the question of profitability of such a venture. Since it could not be a non-profit venture, it would have to generate enough revenues to cover expenses and salaries of staff experts without the non-profit cushion of "tax deductible gifts". How much would a collector or dealer pay to have a grading certificate and appraisal document for a specific book? In coins they pay around $25. Would comic collectors pay that much? Would there be enough demand for the service to create a real business, or would it have to be a sideline? I don't think a service of this sort would be beneficial to anyone if it were merely a "part-time" venture for somebody.

There are grading and appraisal services in both stamps and coins. In stamps it is the American Philatelic Society, a respected trade association which does not deal in stamps but does sponsor trade events such as conventions. In coins there are a number of grading services, the most respected of which is probably the Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS). The PCGS is a group of respected dealers who organized their service to help promote the growth of the coin market to uninitiated investors.

I don't think that conflict of interest should be a question in this matter. Regardless of who organizes a grading service, and I agree that the time is near, the experts will - must - be either collectors or dealers. How else would they have the experience to accurately grade and appraise a book? A case could be made for conflict of interest whether the expert was a collector or dealer. I think a more realistic concern is the reputation of the "staff experts". They must be above reproach. Their reputations in our business must be un-blemished. There must be a sense of trust among the people who would use the service. I think that is why several Advisors are looking to Overstreet, who defined the grading standards in our hobby, to lead the way. Who could be more above reproach?

I'm not saying that an Overstreet Grading Service is in the works. But it has been discussed. Both Bob and I agree that choosing and training the staff experts would be very time consuming. And we are snowed under already. But for a project that is worthwhile, needed, and wanted by our industry we would have to look for a way to implement. - JW]

Action Comics #267, © DC

Adventure Comics #249, © DC

Adventure Comics #348, © DC

Adventurers #1, © Adventure Pub.

ACE
1988 (1 95, B&W)
Harrier Comics

1	1.95
Title Value	1 95

ACE COMICS PRESENTS
May, 1987-No. 4 (1 75 cover, B&W)
Ace Comics

1-4	1.70
Title Value	6 80

ACES
Apr 1988-Present (2 95, B&W Magazine)
Acme Press (Eclipse Comics)

1-3	3.00
Title Value	9 00

ACTION COMICS
Dec , 1954- No 600, May 1988 (See Action Comics Wee
DC Comics

1- Reprint, 1988, 50¢ cover	.50	
201- Last pre-code issue	95.00	
202-220	73.00	
221-240	52.00	
241, 243-251	37.00	
242- Origin & 1st app Brainiac	130 00 +	H
252- Origin & 1st app Supergirl	250 00 +	H
253- 2nd app Supergirl	45.00 +	H
254- 1st meeting Of Bizarro & Superman	40 00 +	
255- 1st Bizarro Lois Lane	42 00 +	
256-261	21.00	
262-268, 268-270	18.50	
267- 3rd Legion app	160.00 +	H
271-275, 277-282 282-Last 10 cent	17 00	
276- 6th Legion app.	55.00 +	H
283- Legion Of Super-Villains app	20 00 +	H
284- Mon-El app.	20.00 +	H
285- 12th Legion app.	25.00 +	H
286-290	13.00	
291, 292, 294-299	7 00	
293- Origin Comet	12.00	
300	10 00	
301-308, 310-320	5.50	
309- Legion app	6.50	
321-333, 335-340	4.00	
334- Giant (G-20)	7.50	
341-346, 348-359	3.50	
347- Giant (G-33)	3.50	
360- Giant (G-45)	5.50	
361-372, 374-380	2.00	
373- Giant (G-57)	4.00 +	
381-424	1.50	
425- Adams art	2.00	
426-436, 438, 439	1.50	
440- 1st Grell art on Green Arrow	4.00 +	
441- Grell art on Green Arrow	2.50 +	
442, 444-450	1.50	
437, 443- 100 page giants	2.00 +	
451-499	1.50	
500- Superman life story	1.20	
501-565	1.00	
566-582	1.00	
583- Allan Moore	4.00	H
584-Byrne begins	1.50	
585-597, 599	1.00	
598- 1st app Checkmate	2.00 +	
600- 2 50 cover price	3.00 +	
Annual 1 (10/87) Arthur Adams art	1.50	
Title Value	4864 70	

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY
May 6, 1988-Present (1 50, color, 48 pages)
DC Comics

601-630	1.50
Title Value	45.00

ACTION FORCE
Mar 1987-No. 407, 1988 (1 00, color, weekly)
Marvel Comics Ltd (British)

1- British G I Joe series	3.00
2	1 60
3-40	1.00
Title Value,	42 60

ADOLESCENT RADIOACTIVE BLACK BELT HAMSTERS (Also see Clint, Laffin Gas)
1986-No 9, Jan 1988 (1 50, B&W)
Comic Castle/Eclipse Comics

1	3 00 -
1- 2nd Print (1.50)	1.40
2-9	1.60
3-D 1 (7/86) - 4	2 00
2-D 1 (Limited edition)	5.00
2-D 2-4 2 50 cover price	2.50
Title Value:	37.70

ADVENTURE COMICS
No 247, Apr, 1958 - No. 503, Sept, 1983
National Periodical Publications/DC Comics

247- 1st app Leg Of Super Heroes	1380 00 +	
248-255	40.00	
256- Origin Green Arrow	100 00 +	H
257-259	40.00	
260- Origin Aquaman (1st app.?)	85.00 +	H
261-266, 268, 270	30 00	
267-2nd Legion Of SuperHeroes	275 00	
269- Intro Aqualad	45.00 +	H
271- Origin Luther	35.00 +	H
272-280	22.00	H
281, 284, 287-289	18.00	H
282- 5th Legion app.	55.00	H
283- Intro Phantom Zone	30.00	H
285- 1st Bizarro World story In Adv	30 00	H
286- 1st Bizarro Mxyzptlk	25.00	H
290- 8th Legion app , last 10 cent iss.	50 00	H
291, 292, 295-298	16.00	
293- 13th Legion app	34.00	
294-1st Bizarro M Monroe, Pres Kennedy	20 00 +	H
299-1st Gold Kryptonite	16.00	
300- Legion series begins	160.00	
301- Origin Bounding Boy	50 00	
302-305	26.00	
306-310	21.00	
311-320	16.00	
321- Intro Time Trapper	12.00	
322-326, 328-330	11.00	
327- Intro Timber Wolf in Legion	11.00	
331-340	10.00	
341- Triplicate Girl becomes Duo Damsel	7.50	
342-345, 347, 350, 351	6.50	
346, 348, 349	7.50	
352, 354-360	5.50	
353- Death of Ferro Lad in Legion	10.00	
361-364, 366, 368-370	4.20	
365, 367, 371, 372	5.20	
373, 374, 376-380	4.20	
375- Intro Quantum Queen	5.20	
381-389, 391-400	1.20	
390- (80 pg. giant G-81)	4.00	
401, 402, 404-410	1.20	
403- (68 pg. Giant G-81)	4.00	
411-415, 418, 419	.80	
416- (100 pg. giant Supergirl DC-10)	1.20	
417- Morrow Vigilante Frazetta Shining Knight reprints Adv. 161	1.20	
420-424	.80	
425- New look	1.50	
426-458	.80	
459-466	.90	
467-490	.80	
491- Last comic-size iss	1.00	
492-499 492-100 pg. digests begin	1.20	
500- All Legion reprints	1.60	
501-503	1.20	
Title Value:	4365 30	

ADVENTURERS, THE
August, 1986-Present (1 50, B&W)
Aircel Comics/Adventure Pub

1- Peter Hsu art	9.00 +	
1- Cover variant, limited edition	26 00	
1- 2nd Print (12/86), 1st app Elf Warrior	5 00	
2, 3	3.50 +	
0- (#4, 12/86) Origin	2.50 +	
4-10	2.00 +	
Book II Regular Edition No. 1	2.00 +	
Book II Limited Edition No. 1	2.00 +	
Book II #2-6	2.00 +	
Title Value:	77.50	

ADVENTURES IN THE MYSTWOOD
1986 (2 00, B&W)
Blackthorne Pub

1	1.60
Title Value:	1.60

ADVENTURES OF B.O.C.
Nov. 1986-Present (1.50, B&W)
Invasion Comics

1, 2	1.40
Title Value:	2.80

ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN JACK, THE
June, 1986-present ($2, B&W, Adults)
Fantagraphics Books

1	4.00
2	3.00
3-11	2.00
Title Value:	25.00

ADVENTURES OF CHUK, THE
July, 1987-Present (1.25, B&W)
White Wolf Comics

1, 2	1.00
Title Value:	2.00

ADVENTURES OF LUTHER ARKWRIGHT, THE
Oct. 1987 (2.00, B&W)
Valkyrie Press

1	3.00 +
2, 3	2.00 +
Title Value:	7.00

ADVENTURES OF RICK RAYGUN, THE
Sept, 1986-Present (1.75, B&W)
Slop Dragon Comics

1-4	1.80
Title Value:	6.40

ADVENTURES OF SLATE SKATE, THE
Jan.1987-Present (1.75, B&W)
Hot Shot Comix

1	1.50
Title Value:	1.50

ADVENTURES OF SPENCER SPOOK, THE
Oct, 1986-Present (1.95 cover price, B&W)
Ace Comics

1-5	1.80
Title Value	9.00

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN
(formerly Superman)
Jan, 1987-Present
DC Comics

424	3.00
425-447	1.20
Annual 1 (9/87), 2 (1988)	1.50
Title Value:	33.80

ADVENTURES OF THE OUTSIDERS, THE
(Formerly Batman And The Outsiders)
May, 1986 - No 46, June 1987
DC Comics

33-46 39-46 are reprints	.70
Title Value:	9.80

ADVENTURES OF THEOWN, THE
Oct, 1986-No 3 (mini-series, 1.50, B&W)
Pyramid Comics

1-3	1.40
Title Value:	4.20

ADVENTURES OF ZOT! IN DIMENSION 10 1/2
Sept, 1987 (one-shot, 2.00, B&W)
Eclipse Comics

14 1/2	1.90
Title Value:	1.90

AFTER APOCALYPSE
1987-Present
Paragraphix

1	1.50
Title Value:	1.50

AFTERMATH
1987-Present (B&W, 1.50)
Invasion Comics

1- 2 cover variations	3.00
2	1.50
Title Value:	4.50

AGAINST BLACKSHARD: 3-D
August, 1986
Sirius Comics

1	2.00
Title Value:	2.00

AGENT UNKNOWN
Oct. 1987- No. 3, Mar. 1988 (B&W, 2.00)
Renegade Press

1-3	1.80
Title Value:	5.40

AIRBOY
July, 1986-Present (16 pages, bi-weekly)
Eclipse Comics (no. 9 on regular size)

1	4.40
2-4, 6-8	2.20
5- Dave Stevens cover	3.00
9-20	1.80
21-30	1.50
31-44	1.75
Title Value.	40.40

AIRBOY MEETS THE PROWLER
Dec. 1987 (one shot, 1.95, color)
Eclipse Comics

1	1.95
Title Value:	1.95

AIRBOY - MR. MONSTER SPECIAL
Aug, 1987 (one-shot, 1.75, color)
Eclipse Comics

1	1.80
Title Value:	1.80

AIRBOY VERSUS THE AIR MAIDENS
July, 1988 (1.95, color)
Eclipse Comics

1	1.95
Title Value:	1.95

AIR FIGHTERS CLASSICS
Nov. 1987-Present (3.95, B&W)
Eclipse Comics

1-5	3.95
Title Value:	19.75

AIRMAIDENS SPECIAL
August, 1987-Present (1.75, color)
Eclipse Comics

1	2.00
Title Value:	2.00

AIR RAIDERS
Nov. 1987-No 5, Mar. 1988 (1.00, color)
Star Comics (Marvel)

1-5	1.00
Title Value:	5.00

AKIRA
1988-Present (3.50, color, deluxe)
Epic Comics

1-3	3.50
Title Value:	10.50

ALBEDO
Apr. 1983- Present (B&W)
Thoughts And Images

0- Yellow cover, 50 copies	190.00
0- White cover, 450 copies	170.00
0- Blue, 1st printing, 500 copies	80.00
0- Blue, 2nd printing, 1000 copies	70.00
0- 3rd print	5.00
0- 4th print	2.00
1- Dark red	90.00 -
1- Bright red	80.00 -
2	90.00 -
3	10.00 +
4	25.00 +
5	8.00 +
6	10.00 +
7-15	2.50
NOTE: Prices vary widely on this series!	
Title Value:	862.50

ALF
Mar. 1988-Present (1.00, color)
Marvel Comics

1	7.00 + H
2	4.00 + H
3-5	2.00 + H
6-10	1.00 H
Annual 1 (1988, 1.75 cover), Evolutionary War	

Against Blackshard: 3-D #1, © Blackthorne

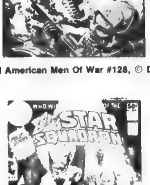
Airboy - Mr. Monster Special #1, © Eclipse

Air Fighters Classics #1, © Eclipse

Airmaidens Special #1, © Eclipse

Alien Worlds #1, © Eclipse

All American Men Of War #128, © DC



All-Star Squadron #1, © DC

Amazing Adult Fantasy #9, © Marvel

	3.00 +	H
Title Value	25.00	

ALIEN DUCKLINGS
Oct., 1986-No 5? (1.75, B&W)
Blackthorne Publishing

1-5	1.40
Title Value:	7.00

ALIEN ENCOUNTERS
June 1985 - No. 14 , Aug , 1987
Eclipse Comics

1-14	2.00
Title Value:	28.00

ALIEN FIRE
1987-No. 3 (2.00, B&W)
Kitchen Sink Press

1-3	2.50
Title Value:	7.50

ALIEN LEGION
April, 1984 - No. 20, Sept. 1987
Epic Comics (Marvel)

1	3.50
2-5	2.00
6-10	1.70
11-20	1.50
Title Value:	35.00

ALIEN LEGION
Aug 1987-Present (1.25, color)
Epic Comics

V2 #1	1.50
2-7	1.30
Title Value:	9.30

ALIENS
1988-Present (1.95, B&W, mini-series)
Dark Horse Comics

1- Movie adaptation	6.00	H
2	2.50	H
Title Value:	8.50	

ALIEN WORLDS
Dec, 1982 - No. 9, Jan, 1985
Pacific Comics/Eclipse Comics

1	3.50	
2-7	3.00	
8- 1st Eclipse issue	1.70	
9- $1.75 cover price, last issue	2.00	
3-D No. 1- Art Adams	5.00	H
Title Value:	30.20	

ALIEN WORLDS
1988-Present? (Semi-annual, deluxe, color)
Eclipse Books

1	3.50
Title Value:	3.50

ALL AMERICAN MEN OF WAR
No. 2, Dec-Jan , 1953-No 117, Sept -Oct , 1966
National Periodical Publ

127 (1952)	125.00	+
128 (1952)	78.00	+
2-5 (1952)	60.00	+
6-10	40.00	+
11-20	30.00	+
21-28	23.00	+
29, 30, 32-Wood art	25.00	+
31, 33-50	11.00	+
51-67: 67-1st Gunner & Sarge by And	8.00	+
68-80	4.00	
81-100	2.00	
101-117	1.20	
Title Value:	1679.40	

ALL STAR INDEX, THE
Feb 1987 (2.00 cover price)
Independent Comics Group (Eclipse)

1	2.00
Title Value:	2.00

ALL-STAR SQUADRON
Sept. 1981 - No. 67, Mar 1987
DC Comics

1	1.50
2	1.00
3-24	.80
25- 1st Infinity, Inc.	4.00
26- Infinity, Inc. origin.	3.20
26-49	.80
50- Crisis x-over	1.50
51-53- Crisis x-over	1.00
54-67	.80
Annual 1	1.00
Annual 2	1.00
Annual 3	1.30
Title Value:	65.50

ALPHA FLIGHT
Aug, 1983 - Present
Marvel Comics Group

1	4.80	
2	3.20	
3-5	2.60	
6-11	2.10	
12- Double size	2.50	
13- Wolverine app.	2.50	+
14-16	1.50	
17- X-Men x-over, Wolverine app.	3.20	
18-29 last Byrne issues	1.50	
30-33, 35-39	1.30	
34- Wolverine app.	2.00	+
40-49, 51	1.30	
50- Double size	1.40	
52, 53-Wolverine app	2.00	+
54-58	1.30	
60-87	1.25	
Annual 1	1.80	
Annual 2- (12/87, 1.25 cover)	1.30	
Title Value:	112.10	

ALPHA WAVE
March 1987-Present (1.75 cover, color)
Darkline Comics

1	1.50
Title Value.	1.50

ALTER EGO
May, 1986- No. 4, Nov 1986 (mini-series)
First Comics

1	1.80
2-4	1.40
Title Value:	6.00

ALTERNATE EXISTENCE
May, 1982 (one-shot, B&W, $2.00 cover)
Alternate Comics

1- Magazine size	2.00
Title Value:	2.00

ALTERNATE HEROES
Sept, 1986 (1.95, B&W)
Prelude Graphics

1, 2	1.70
Title Value:	3.40

AMAZING ADULT FANTASY
(Amazing Advs. No. 1-6, Amazing Fantasy No. 15)
No. 7, Dec, 1961 - No. 14, July, 1962
Marvel Comics Group (AMI)

7- Ditko art in all	73.00	+
8-last 10 cent issue	58.00	+
9-14	52.00	+
Title Value:	443.00	

AMAZING ADVENTURES
(Amazing Adult Fantasy No. 7 on)
June, 1961 - No. 6, Nov, 1961
Marvel Comics Group (AMI)

1- Origin Dr. Droom (1st Marvel Super-Hero)		
Ditko & Kirby art in all	130.00	+ H
2	63.00	+
3-6	47.00	+
Title Value:	381.00	

AMAZING ADVENTURES
Aug, 1970 - No. 39, Nov, 1976
Marvel Comics Group

1- Inhumans by Kirby & Black Widow begin	
	2.40
2-4	1.60
5-8: Adams art	3.00
9, 10- 10 Last Inhumans	1.20
11- New Beast begins, ends no 17, X-Men cameo	
	3.50
12-17	1.80
18- 1st app Killraven, Adams art	2.50
19-39	.80

Title Value: 51.00

AMAZING ADVENTURES
December, 1979 - No. 14, January, 1981
Marvel Comics Group
V2 #1- Reprints X-Men 1, 38 2.00 +
2-14- Early X-Men reprints 1.50
Title Value: 21.50

AMAZING COMICS PREMIERES
1986-Present (1.95, B&W)
Amazing Comics
1 1.80
2-5 1.80
Title Value: 9.00

AMAZING CYNICALMAN, THE
June, 1987 (1.50, B&W)
Eclipse Comics
1 1.50
Title Value: 1.50

AMAZING FANTASY
(...Adult Fantasy No. 7-14)
No. 15, Sept. 1962 (on 1st pg.)
Marvel Comics Group (AMI)
15- Origin & 1st app. Spider-Man 1700.00 + H
Title Value: 1700.00

AMAZING HIGH ADVENTURE
Aug, 1984 - Present
Marvel Comics Group
1-5 2.00
Title Value: 10.00

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE
March, 1963 - Present
Marvel Comics Group
1- Origin retold, Ditko. 1300.00 + H
1 (Reprint) 18.00 + H
1 (with record) 40.00 + H
2- Intro. The Vulture 420.00 + H
3- Intro. & 1st app. Doc Octopus 240.00 + H
4- Origin & 1st app. The Sandman 210.00 + H
5, 6 160.00 + H
7-10 120.00 + H
11-13, 15 78.00 + H
14- Intro the Green Goblin 90.00 + H
16-19 50.00 H
20- Intro & origin The Scorpion 50.00 H
21-30: 26- 1st app. Crime Master, 28- origin & 1st app Molten Man 34.00 + H
31-40: 31- Intro Harry Osborn, Gwen Stacy, & Prof. Warren, 38-Last Ditko Issue, 39, 40- Green Goblin in both. 22.00 + H
41, 43-49 11.50 + H
42- 1st app Mary Jane Watson 17.00 + H
50- Intro Kingpin 21.00 + H
51-60. 56- Intro Capt. George Stacy 7.00 + H
61-80 5.50 + H
81-89, 91-93, 95, 99 5.00 + H
90- Death of Capt. Stacy 7.00 H
94- Origin retold 7.50 + H
96-98: Drug books not approved by CCA 12.00 + H
100- Anniversary issue 18.00 + H
101- Intro Morbius 8.50 + H
102- Origin Morbius (52 pgs) 8.50 + H
103-112, 115-118 4.00 + H
113, 114, 119, 120 4.50 + H
121- Death of Gwen Stacy 22.00 H
122- Death of Green Goblin 22.00 H
123-128 3.50 + H
129- 1st app. The Punisher (2/74) 65.00 + H
130-133, 136-140 3.00 + H
134- Punisher cameo app. 8.00 + H
135- Punisher app. 12.00 + H
141-160 2.40 + H
161- Nightcrawler app., Punisher (can 10.00 + H
162- Punisher app , Nightcrawler 10.00 + H
163-170 1.50 H
171-173, 176-181: 181- Origin retold, gives life history of Spiderman 1.50 H
174, 175- Punisher app. 7.00 + H
182-188 1.50 H
189, 190- Byrne art (p) 2.50 + H
191-193, 195-199, 204, 205, 207-219 1.50 + H
194- 1st Black Cat 2.00 H
200- Giant origin issue 2.50 H
201, 202- Punisher app. 4.50 H
203- 2nd Dazzler app. 2.00 H
206- Byrne art 1.50 H
220-237 1.00 H
238- 1st app. Hobgoblin 5.00 + H
239 2.50 + H
240-251 1.20 + H
252- New black costume for Spidermen 5.00 H
253 3.00 H
254 1.50 H
255-260: 259- Spider-Man back to old costume 1.20 H
261-274 1.00 H
275- Reprints origin, 1.25 cover 2.00 + H
276-283 1.00 H
283- Punisher cameo app. 2.00 H
285- Punisher app. 4.00 + H
286-288, 290-292 1.00 + H
289- Double size, origin Hob-Goblin 3.00 + H
293- Six part, Kraven 2.50 + H
294-297 1.50 + H
298- Todd McFarlane art begins 3.00 + H
299- McFarlane art 2.40 + H
300- Double size, last black costume 3.00 + H
301-305 1.50 + H
306-312 1.20 + H
Annual 1 55.00 + H
Annual 2 17.00 + H
Special 3, 4 8.00 H
Special 5-8 4.00 H
King Size 9 2.00 H
Annual 10, 11, 12 2.00 H
Annual 13- John Byrne art 3.00 H
Annual 14- Miller cover and art 4.00 H
Annual 15- Punisher app., Miller c/a 6.00 + H
Annual 16-20 1.40 H
Annual 21- Special Wedding issue, direct sale versio 3.00 H
Annual 21- Wedding issue, newstand version 2.50 H
Annual 22 (1988)- Evolutionay War 2.00 H
Giant Size 1 3.00 H
Giant Size 2, 3, 5, 6 1.50 H
Giant Size 4 Punisher app. 8.00 + H
Title Value: 5337.90

AMBUSH BUG
June, 1985 - No 4, Sept, 1985 (4-issue mini-series)
DC Comics
1 1.00
2-4 .80
Stocking Stuffer (2/86) 1.30
Title Value 4.70

AMERICAN, THE
July, 1987-Present (B&W, 1.75)
Dark Horse Comics
1 5.00 + H
2 3.30 H
3-7 2.00 H
Title Value: 18.30

AMERICAN FLAGG!
Oct, 1983 - No 50, Mar 1988
First Comics
1 4.50
2-5 2.50 -
6-12 2.00
13-50 1.50 -
Special 1 2.00
Title Value: 87.50

AMERICAN FLAGG! (Howard Chaykin's)
May 1988-Present (1.75, color)
First Comics
V2 #1-10 2.00 +
Title Value: 20.00

AMERICA VERSUS THE JUSTICE SOCIETY
Jan, 1985 - No. 4, Apr, 1985 (mini-series)
DC Comics
1 1.80
2-4 1.20
Title Value. 5.40

AMERICOMICS
May, 1983-No 6, Mar, 1984 (Color)
Americomics
1-6: printed on Baxter paper 2.50

Amazing Fantasy #15, © Marvel

Amazing Spider-Man #97, © Marvel

Amazing Spider-Man Giant Size #4, © Marvel

American Flagg! V2/1, © First

Watchmen #2, © DC

Web Of Spider-Man #31, © Marvel

The Weird #1, © DC

What If...? #13, © Marvel

100- Double size 1 30
101-122 1 00 +
123-132 $1 00 cover price 1 00
133- Last issue, 44 pages, 1 50 1 50
Annual 1 2 00 +
Annual 2 1 00
Annual 3-5 1 30
Annual 6- New Gods app 1 30
Title Value 249 00

WARP GRAPHICS ANNUAL
1985, 1988 ($2 95, color)
WaRP Graphics
1- 1985 3 00
1- 1988 3 00
Title Value 6 00

WARRIORS
1987-Present (B&W, 1 95)
Adventure Publications
1- Hau painted cover 2 50 +
2-7 2 00
Title Value 14 50

WASTELAND
Dec 1987-Present (1 75, color)
DC Comics
1-15 5 has two variants 1 80
TitleValue 27 00

WATCHCATS
1987 (1 95, B&W)
Harrier Comics
1 1 70
Title Value 1 70

WATCHMEN
Sept 1986- No. 12, Oct. 1987 (12 issue maxi-series)
DC Comics
1 7 00 + H
2, 3 5 00 + H
4-12 3 75 + H
Trade Paperback (1987, 14 95) 16 00 + H
Hardcover (SF Book Club, retail $15) 25 00 + H
Hardcover (Limited, Graphitti Designs, retail $50) 75.00 + H
Hardcover (French #1-6, word balloons in French) 15 00 + H
DC Portfolio (24 plate, retail $20) 25 00 + H
Signed/Limited French Portfolio (2000 copies, retail $50) 150 00 + H
Limited/Numbered Button set ($4 95 r 15 00 + H
Title Value 356 75

WEB OF SPIDERMAN
April, 1985 - Present
Marvel Comics Group
1 7 00
2, 3 4 00
4-8 3 00
9-13 2 50
14-28, 30 2 00
29- Wolverine app 3 50 + H
31- Six part Kraven storyline 4 00 H
32- Kraven storyline continues 3 00 + H
33, 34 1 25 + H
35-47 1 00 H
Annual 1 2 20
Annual 2- Arthur Adams art 4 00
Annual 3 1 80
Annual 4- Evolutionary War (1988) 2 20 +
Title Value 112 50

WEIRD, THE
Apr 1988-No 4, July 1988 (1 50, color, mini-series)
DC Comics
1- Wrightson cover & art in all 2 20
2-4 1 80
Title Value 7 60

WEIRD ROMANCE
Feb 1968 (2 00, B&W)
Eclipse Comics
1 1 60
Title Value 1 60

WEREWOLF
July 1988 ($2, B&W)
Blackthorne Publishing
1, 2 2.00
Title Value 4.00

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT
Sept, 1972 - No. 43, Mar, 1977
Marvel Comics Group
1 2.00
2-31, 34-36, 38-43 .50
32- Origin, 1st app Moon Knight 9.00 -
33- Moon Knight 5.00 -
37- Moon Knight 2.50 -
Giant Size 2-5 .80
Title Value: 40.40

WEST COAST AVENGERS
Sept, 1984 - No. 4 Dec, 1984 (4-issue mini-series)
Marvel Comics Group
1 6.00 + H
2-4 4.00 + H
Title Value 18.00

WEST COAST AVENGERS
Oct, 1985 - Present (regular series)
Marvel Comics Group
V2 #1 5.00 + H
2, 3 3.50 + H
4-6 2.75 + H
7-10 2.25 + H
11-20 2.00 + H
21-30 1.25 + H
31-40 1.00 H
Annual 1 2.00 H
Annual 2 (9/87, 1 25) 1 75 H
Annual 3 (1988) Evolutionary War 2 00 H
Title Value 79.25

WHAT IF...?
Feb, 1977 - No 47, Oct 1985
Marvel Comics Group
1 7 00
2 4.50
3-5 3 80
6-10 2 80
11, 12 2.50
13- Conan 4.00
14-26 1.80
27 X-Men app , Miller-c 5.50
28- Daredevil by Miller 6 60
29, 32 1.50
31- X-Men app 3 00
32-47 1.50
Title Value 110.40

WHAT IF SPECIAL
June, 1988-Present (1 50, color)
Marvel Comics
1 1.50
Title Value 1.50

WHAT THE-?!
Aug. 1988-No 4, Nov. 1988 (1 25, color)
Marvel Comics
1-4 1.50
Title Value: 6.00

WHISPER
Dec, 1983 - No 2, 1984
Capital Comics/First Comics
1 7.50
2 3 80
Title Value 14 70

WHISPER
June, 1986-Present
First Comics
V2 Noe. 1-9 1 25 cover price 1 30
10-21 1 80
Special 1- (Nov 1985, 2 50) 2.50
Title Value: 35.80

WHODUNNIT?
June, 1986-Present
Eclipse Comics
1-3 1.80
Title Value: 5.40

WHO'S WHO
Mar, 1985 - No. 28, April 1987 (28 issue maxi-series)
DC Comics

1 2.00
2-26 1.20
Title Value: 32.00

WHO'S WHO IN STAR TREK
Mar. 1987-No. 2, Apr. 1987 (1.50, color)
DC Comics
1, 2 5.00 +
Title Value: 10.00

WHO'S WHO IN THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
Apr. 1987-No. 7, Nov. 1988 (1.25, color index)
DC Comics
1-7 1.30
Title Value: 9.10

WHO'S WHO UPDATE '87
Aug., 1987-No. 5 Dec. 1987 (1.25, color)
DC Comics
1-5 1.50
Title Value: 7.50

WHO'S WHO UPDATE '88
Aug. 1988-No. 4, Nov 1988 (1.25, index)
DC Comics
1-4 1.25
Title Value: 5.00

WILD DOG
Sept. 1987- No. 4 Dec. 1987 (4 part mini-series)
DC Comics
1-4 .80
Title Value: 3.20

WILD KNIGHTS
Mar. 1985-Present (1.95, B&W)
Eternity Comics
1-7 1.60
Title Value: 11.20

WILDMAN
May, 1987-Present (1.50, B&W)
Megaton Comics
1 1.40
Title Value: 1.40

WILLOW
Aug. 1988-No. 3 (Limited series, 1.00, color)
Marvel Comics
1-3 1.00
Title Value: 3.00

WINTERWORLD
Sept. 1987-No. 3, Mar. 1988 (mini-series, 1.75, color)
Eclipse Comics
1-3 1.80
Title Value: 5.40

WIZARD OF FOURTH STREET
(Dark Horse Comics)- [Cover Price]

WIZARD OF TIME, THE
(David House)- [Cover Price]

WIZARDS OF THE LAST RESORT
(Bleakthorne)- [Cover Price]

WIZARD WORKS (Fantasy General)- [Cover Pric

WOLFPACK
Aug. 1988-No. 12 (75¢, color, limited series)
Marvel Comics
1-8 .75
Title Value: 6.00

WOLPH (Bleakthorne)- [Cover Price]

WOLVERINE (Also see Incredible Hulk)
Sept, 1982 - No. 4, Dec, 1982 (mini-series)
Marvel Comics Group
1 10.00 + H
2, 3 8.00 + H
4 8.50 + H
Title Value: 34.50

WOLVERINE (Also see Marvel Comics Presents)
Nov. 1988-Present (1.50, color)
Marvel Comics
1 3.00 + H
2-4 1.50 H
Title Value. 7.50

WONDER MAN
Mar. 1986 (one shot)
Marvel Comics
1 1.50
Title Value: 1.50

WONDER WOMAN
No. 73, January, 1955 - No. 329, Jan, 1986
National Periodical Publications/DC Comics
73-90 42.00
91-94, 96-99 28.00
95- Atom Bomb cover 32.00
100 35.00
101-104, 106-110 22.00
105- Secret origin, scarce 45.00
111-120 13.00
121-126 126-Last 10 cent issue 7.50
127-130 7.00
131-150 5.00
151-158, 160-170 4.00
159 5.00
171-178 3.00
179-195 2.50
196-198 3.00
199, 200 5.00
201-210 .80
211-230 .70
231-260 .50
261-286 .60
287- New Teen Titans 1.50
288-299 .60
300 1.50
301-309 .60
310-328 .80
329- Last issue 1.30
Title Value: 1844.20

WONDER WOMAN
Feb. 1987-Present
DC Comics
1- Perez art begins, ends #24 3.00
2-5 1.50
6-10 1.30
11-20 1.10
21-24 1.00
Annual 1 (1.50, 1988) 1.50
Title Value: 32.00

WORDSMITH
Aug. 1985-No. 12, Jan. 1988 (B&W, 1.70)
Renegade Press
1 1.70
2-6 1.70
7-12: 2.00 cover price 1.70
Title Value: 10.20

WORLD OF KRYPTON
Dec. 1987-No. 4, Mar. 1988 (mini-series, .75, color)
DC Comics
1- Byrne story .80
Title Value: .80

WORLD OF METROPOLIS, THE
Aug. 1988-No. 4, Nov 1988 (1.00, color, mini-series)
DC Comics
1-4, Byrne scripts 1.00
Title Value: 4.00

WORLD OF SMALLVILLE
Apr 1988-No 4, July 1988 (.75, color)
DC Comics
1-4 1.20
Title Value: 4.80

WORLD OF WOOD
1986-no. 4 (mini-series, 1.75, color)
Eclipse Comics
1 1.80
2-4 1.80
Title Value 7.20

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS
No. 75, Jan, 1955 - No. 323, Jan, 1986
National Periodical Publ./DC Comics
75-80 1st code approved 70.00
81-90 45.00

Winter World #1, © Eclipse

Wolverine #4 (12/82), © Marvel

Wonder Woman #1, © DC

World's Finest #103, © DC

The Wrath Of The Spectre #1, © DC

X-Factor #1, © Marvel

X-Men #108, © Marvel

X-Men Vs. The Avengers #2, © Marvel

91-93, 95-99 30.00
94- Origin Superman/Batman retold 70.00 +
100 60.00
101-121' 121-Last 10 cent issue 20.00
122-142 10.00
143-150 7.00
151-180 5.00
161- Giant G-28 4.00
162-169 3.00
170- Giant G-40 4.00
171-174 3.00
175, 176- Adams art 4.00
177, 178, 180-187 1.40
179 (G-52), 188 (G-64) Giants 2.00
189-196 1.40
197- Giant G-76 2.00
198-204 1.40
205- Shining Knight by Frazetta-r 1.50
206- Giant G-88 1.20
207-248 .80
249- The Creeper by Ditko begins 1.00
250-299, 301-323 .80
300-(48 pgs., $1.25) New Teen Titans 1.20
Title Value: 2165.90

WRATH OF THE SPECTRE, THE
May 1988-No 4, Aug 1988 (2 50, color, mini-series)
DC Comics
1-4 2.50
Title Value: 10.00

XANADU
May 1988-No 5, 1988 (2 00, B&W, limited series)
Thoughts & Images
1, 2 2.00
Title Value 4.00

XENO-MEN (Blackthorne)- [Cover Price]

XENON
Dec. 1987-Present (bi-weekly, 1.50, b&w)
Eclipse Comics
1 2.50
2-22 1.50
Title Value: 34.00

XENOZOIC TALES
Feb 1987-Present (2 00, B&W)
Kitchen Sink
1-7 2.80
Title Value: 14.00

X-FACTOR
Feb, 1986 - Present
Marvel Comics Group
1 7.50 + H
2, 3 5.00 + H
4, 5 4.50 + H
6-10 3.00 + H
11-20 2.25 + H
21-23 1.50 + H
24-26 Fall Of The Mutants 2.50 + H
27-37 1.00 H
Annual 1 (10/86), 2 (10/87) 2.00 H
Annual 3 (1988, 1 75) Evolutionary W 2.50 H
Title Value: 93.50

X-MEN, THE
Sept, 1963 - Present
Marvel Comics Group
1 700.00 + H
2 300.00 + H
3 150.00 + H
4 125.00 + H
5 95.00 + H
6-10 70.00 + H
11-15 45.00 + H
16-20 30.00 + H
21-27, 29, 30 24.00 + H
28- 1st app The Banshee 26.00 + H
31-37 16.00 + H
38- Origin The X-Men feature begins 17.00 + H
39, 40 39-new costumes 14.00 + H
41-49 11.00 + H
50, 51. Steranko c/a 18.00 + H
52 9.00 + H
53- 1st Barry Smith comic book work 17.00 + H
54, 55 15.00 + H
56-63, 65 Adams art 21.00 + H
64- 1st Sunfire 15.00 + H
66 9.00 + H
67-93 9.00 + H
94- New X-Men begin 105.00 H
95- Death of Thunderbird 45.00 -
96-99 30.00 -
98, 99- 30¢ variants, NOT RARE! 35.00 -
100- Old X-Men vs. New X-Men 35.00 -
101- Phoenix origin concludes 31.00 -
102-107 19.00 -
108- 1st Byrne X-Men 32.00 H
109- 1st Vindicator 28.00 H
110, 111 17.00 -
112-119 15.00 -
120- 1st Alpha Flight 28.00 H
121- Alpha Flight 30.00 H
122-128 12.00 H
129- 1st app. Kitty Pryde 15.00 H
130- 1st app. Dazzler by Byrne 14.00 H
131-135 10.00 H
136, 138 8.50 H
137- Phoenix dies, double size 11.00 H
139- Kitty Pryde joins, Alpha Flight app 13.00 H
140- Alpha Flight app. 17.00 H
141 10.00 H
142, 143' 143-Last Byrne issue 6.00 H
144-150 5.00 H
151-157, 159-164 3.50 H
158- 1st app. Rogue in X-Men 4.00 + H
165- Paul Smith art 5.00 + H
166- Double size, Paul Smith art 4.00 + H
167-170 3.00 + H
171- Rogue joins The X-Men, see Avengers Annual 10 5.00 H
172-174 3.00 + H
175- Double size 3.50 + H
176-185 2.50 H
186- Double size 3.00 + H
187-192, 194-199 2.00 H
193- Double size, special 100th app New X-Men 3.00 H
200- Double size 3.00 + H
201-209 2.00 + H
210-213 Mutant Massacre 3.00 + H
214-224 1.50 + H
225-227 Fall Of The Mutants 3.00 H
228-241 1.50 + H
Annual 3 7.50 + H
Annual 4 6.00 + H
Annual 5 4.25 + H
Annual 6 3.00 + H
Annual 7 2.50 H
Annual 8 2.50 H
Annual 9- Art Adams art 6.00 + H
Annual 10- Art Adams art 6.00 + H
Annual 11 2.00 + H
Annual 12 (1988) Evolutionary War 2.50 + H
Giant Size 1- 1st app. New X-Men 95.00 H
Giant Size 2 20.00 + H
Special 1 20.00 + H
Special 2 20.00 + H
Title Value 4628.75

X-MEN/ALPHA FLIGHT
Jan, 1986 - No 2, Jan, 1986 (mini-series)
Marvel Comics Group
1, 2 3.00 H
Title Value: 6.00

X-MEN AND THE MICRONAUTS, THE
Jan, 1984 - No 4, April, 1984 (mini-series)
Marvel Comics Group
1-4 1.50
Title Value: 6.00

X-MEN CLASSICS
Dec, 1983 - No 3, 1984 ($2 00, Baxter paper)
Marvel Comics Group
1-3 3.00
Title Value 9.00

X-MEN VS. THE AVENGERS
Apr 1987-No 4, July 1987 (1 50, color, mini-series)
Marvel Comics Group
1 3.50
2-4 2.50
Title Value: 11.00

X-TERMINATORS

Oct. 1988-No. 4, Jan. 1989 (1.00, color, mini-series)
Marvel Comics

1	2.00 +
2	1.50 +
3, 4	1.00 +
Title Value	5.50

X-THIEVES (See Aristocratic...)
No. 77, 1987-Present (1.75, B&W)
Fictioneer Books Ltd.

7-9	1.80
Graphic Album (B&W, reprints)	6.50
Title Value	11.90

XYR - See Eclipse Graphic Album

YAKUZA
Sept. 1987-Present (1.95, B&W)
Eternity Comics

1-5	1.80
Title Value	9.00

YOUNG ALL-STARS
June, 1987-Present (1.00, color)
DC Comics

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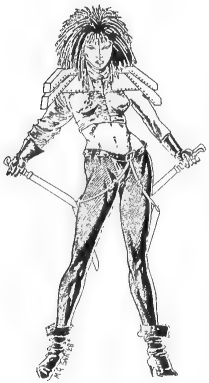

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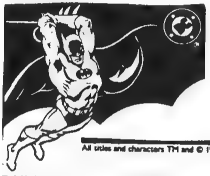

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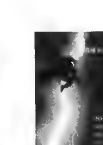

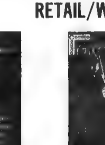

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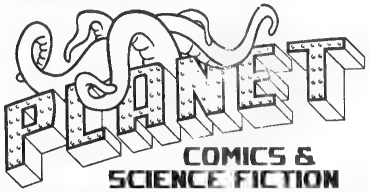

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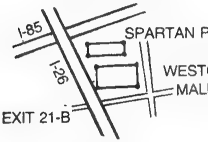

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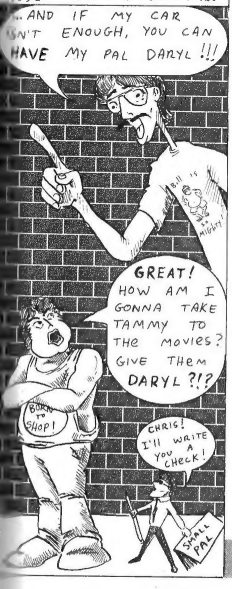
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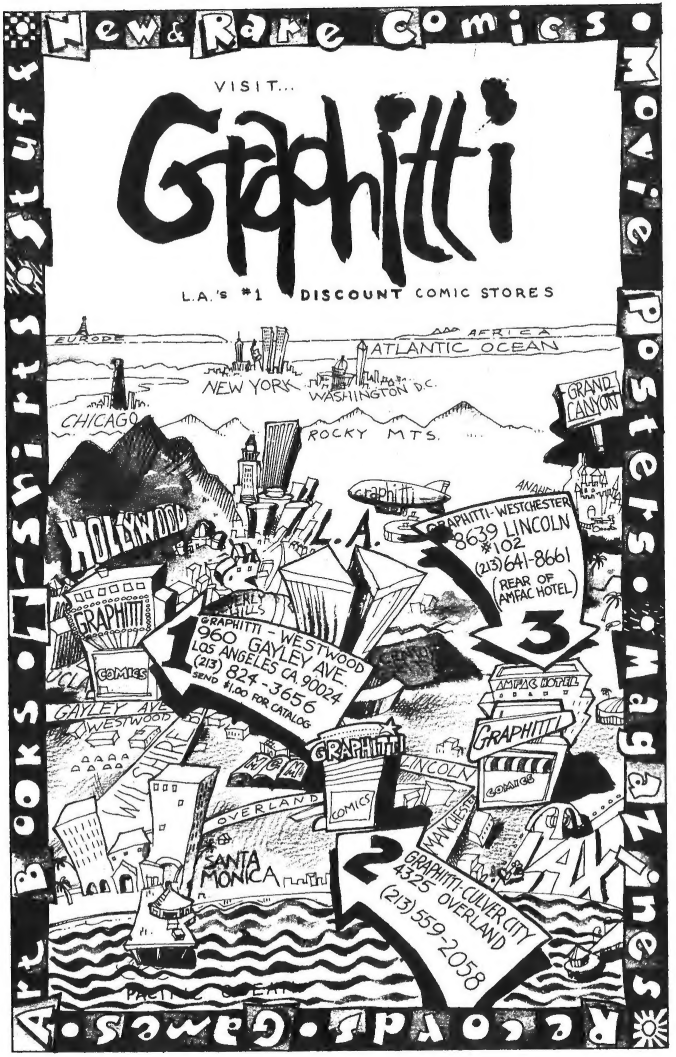
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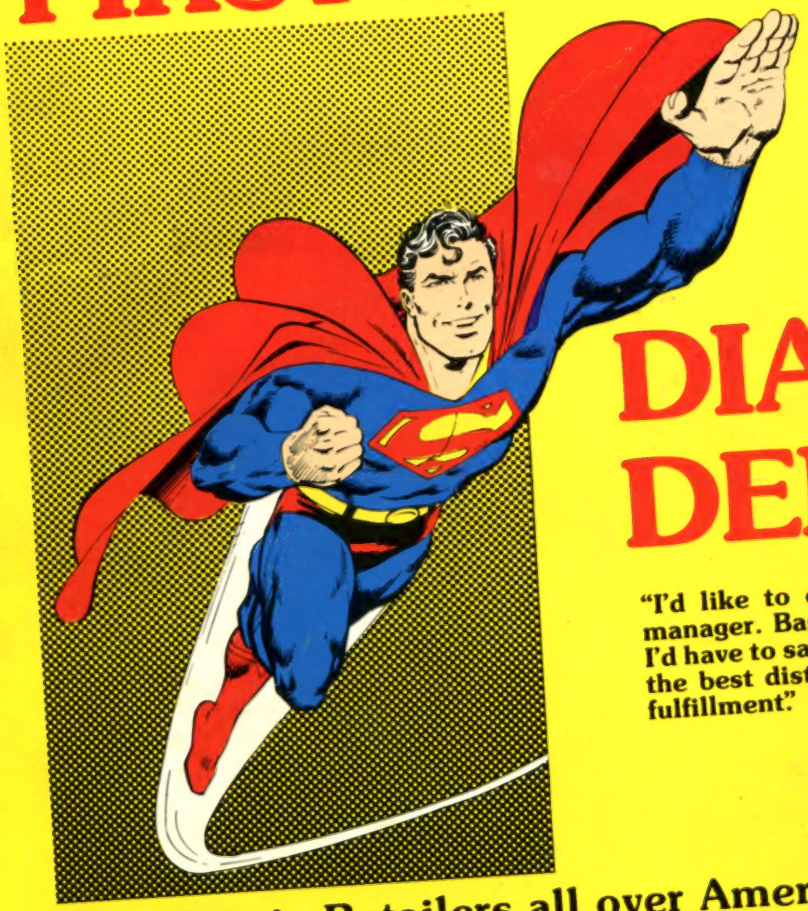

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